LEAFS' POGGE SKATES ONTO BIG STAGE, PG 23

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TORONTO • MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2008
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Celebrity Buzz

Vaughn ditching bachelor status?
pg 36

TTC bus hit in daytime gunplay

CRIME Seven passengers and a TTC driver were left shaken yesterday when two bullets hit their Eglinton Avenue West bus in broad daylight.

Witnesses saw at least two men chasing another man just after noon at Eglinton Avenue West and Dufferin Street when gunfire rang out. One shot hit the window of the bus, leaving a spider web of fractured glass, and one hit the rear doors, said Det. John Holmes. No one was injured.

The passengers got down on the floor as soon as they heard the shots, said Holmes. They were later transferred to another bus.

"The driver said one passenger was approximately two feet away from where the bullet hit the window."

Holmes called it a miracle that no one was hurt.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Seasonal Depression

When holidays aren't so merry
First of a two-part series, pg 10

Workology pg 29

Gift expertise under wraps

Going Green pg 26

Save money, keep the heat

Snowstorms **Shelter from the elements**

AARON HARRIS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Streetcar passengers wait inside a shelter surrounded by blocks of snow on Queen Street at Strachan, on the edge of Trinity Bellwoods Park in Toronto yesterday. Weekend storms dumped an average of 23 centimetres of snow on the city.

SIU to probe shooting

Mississauga man killed by police suffered mental illness

Gregg Moynagh, the Mississauga man who was shot dead by police yesterday morning outside his father's apartment, was bipolar and had battled mental illness for years.

This weekend, he began taking new medication. Friends were hopeful he'd get better. Then yesterday, just days before Christmas, the 25-year-old snapped.

"He had been screaming earlier," said Affan, who lives across the hall and declined to give his full name. "When the police arrived, they told him to come out. He wouldn't. The next thing I heard was police saying, 'Lay down the knives.' Then there were two gunshots."

Investigators said a 911 call came in to Peel police at about 1 a.m. yesterday that a distraught male was yelling and throwing things off a fifth-floor balcony.

Four officers arrived at 28 Helene St. N. in Port Credit. They knocked on the door and asked Moynagh to come outside, Affan said.

Moynagh was shot in the hallway after allegedly lunging at police officers. Investigators recovered two knives at the scene.

The province's Special Investigations Unit, which probes all cases of serious injury or death involving police, is investigating.

SIU spokesperson John Yoannou said no one else was in the apartment at the time.

Michelle Burry, a friend who bumped into Moynagh on Thursday, said he talked of police and a disturbance.

"It's so strange now. He was telling me — as if it had already happened — how he was throwing things off the balcony, then when he threw stuff off the cops had apparently come," she said.

Moynagh planned to pick up new medication that night, Burry thinks she remembers him saying.

"He's a really nice guy. Really funny, too. It's sad. He definitely didn't deserve this," said Burry.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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PM's auto adviser quits just 3 weeks in

BAILOUT Business leader Jim Arnett has resigned as special auto-industry adviser to Prime Minister Stephen Harper after less than three weeks on the job, the Toronto Star has learned.

Provincial sources said Arnett, a former CEO of Molson Inc., would continue to advise Premier Dalton McGuinty on restructuring the auto industry.

The move came on the eve of Saturday's announcement that Ottawa and Queen's Park are loaning $4 billion to General Motors Canada and Chrysler Canada.

Self-help

- Instead of seeking a new adviser, Ottawa will rely on internal advice on how GM, Chrysler and Ford can be made more competitive.

Federal insiders said yesterday the Conservative government never really saw eye-to-eye with Arnett on what needed to be done, and Ottawa has no immediate plans to look for a successor.

"We never came to terms, at least from the federal perspective," said a high-ranking official.

The resignation came 18 days after Arnett's Dec. 1 hiring. It was a joint appointment with Queen's Park and the federal government, and federal officials said he would play a "significant" role in getting the U.S.-based automakers back on track.

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MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 12, 22

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Cabbie claims he was pistol-whipped

The emergency task force needed a three-hour standoff at a west-end home to make arrests early yesterday after a cabbie complained he was pistol-whipped during a melee with four people inside his taxi. No charges were laid while police sorted out the events and who owned the pistol. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Local

Game consoles targeted

'Tis the season for thieves to take a page from the Grinch and stealing Christmas. One man walked into EB Games on Lawrence Avenue East around 9 p.m. Friday, revealed a gun and ordered two employees to put their hands up. Two more men entered the store, one nabbed several Play Station 3 and Xbox 360 game consoles and ordered the employees to open the cash register. The suspects grabbed cash from the register and fled the scene. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Tomorrow's Metro

News

Part 2 of Metro's series on seasonal depression.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Comment Guidy Mamman praises the "effortless peace" of Canadian multiculturalism at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 19: Lotto Super 7: 2, 16, 17, 21, 23, 36 & 45. Bonus 22: **Saturday, Dec. 20: Lotto 6/49:** 4, 7, 8, 10, 47 & 48. Bonus 6: **Sunday, Dec. 21: Ontario Pick 3:** 6 5 5; **Ontario Pick 4** : 7 8 4 8 **Encore:** 6931875; **Daily Keno:** 1, 12, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 36, 39, 41, 50, 54, 55, 66, 67. These results are not official.

Pickering **Lighting up the holidays**

PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Williams family home in Pickering has become quite the spectacle. Michael Williams rented a crane to take lights right to the top of five 15-metre trees in the front yard as the family won Pickering's best decorated home award for the fourth straight year.

Councillor addresses numbers

Everyone has done it: Tried to find an address in an unfamiliar part of town, only to find that few buildings on the street have visible numbers.

Coun. Howard Moscoe, a team of Toronto officials and volunteer letter carriers have a plan to fix that. They've hatched a pilot project, to roll out in the next few months, to get a number on every building in an area near Dufferin Street and Lawrence Avenue West.

Toronto has about 508,800 listed addresses. If only two per cent are unnumbered, that's 10,000 locations that are hard to pinpoint — and some estimates of unmarked addresses are higher.

Once the pilot project is finished, the city will consider whether it's worthwhile extending the campaign across the city.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Man, 80, stabbed in head with scissors

An 80-year-old man stabbed in the head with scissors is in hospital with stitches.Police were called to a rooming house dispute on Connolly Street in the St. Clair Avenue West and Davenport Road area around 11:30 p.m. Saturday. A 43-year-old man, also a resident, was arrested at the scene. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A little piece of city peace

OASIS Nona Alexander is tightly tucked into a full-length green overcoat and burgundy cloche. Lord Montgomery, as always, is at her side, his fur salt and pepper as the snow.

They have been coming here, to Berczy Park, just about every lunch break for the last four years.

Until the miniature schnauzer arrived in her life Alexander used to march past the park on her way to St. Lawrence Market.

It's an unlikely respite, an oasis nestled at the gleaming ridge of office towers two blocks to the west. "You wouldn't think there's a park here," she says.

There's just something about this park-in-miniature that makes you think along the lines of possession and husbanding. You want to have it always nearby, a little patch of triangular glory, its walkways radiating from a more-or-less central fountain framed by curving metal benches. There's a solace here, an inner peace.

The City of Toronto acquired the land in the early 1970s, planning to build the St. Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts. But when the arts centre was, instead, built on the south side of Front Street, local residents and businesses started petitioning for the now-vacant space to be turned into something green.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

BUST Police busted a drug lab in an apartment above a store last night in a raid near Queen Street East. The search came a day after the arrest of a man on drug charges inside a club in the Entertainment District.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'We can survive anything'

Newlywed optimistic after remarkable recovery from brain injury

If it were not for a confluence of media pressure, government action and excellent medical care, as well as doses of love, support and determination, Michelle Senayah, a 24-year-old architect and globetrotter from Mississauga, wouldn't be here

She says the scooter, with a 500cc engine, was really more of a motorcycle and the truck — going the wrong way toward Michelle and Jonas Senayah on a one-way street in Lomé, Togo — was followed by an unseen car. Jonas swerved to avoid the truck just as the car swung out to pass. It was a head-on collision.

Michelle, sitting behind Jonas, was catapulted over him, and thrown 20 metres. The helmet held up but her skull did not. There were hairline fractures and untold damage to her brain. Jonas was left with a busted-up left knee and ankle.

The couple had exchanged vows months earlier in Togo, Jonas' homeland. They had planned on making Canada their home once Jonas' paperwork wound its way through the immigration system.

Michelle didn't wake up for a month. Her parents offered their home as collateral against the cost of an emergency Medevac flight but there needed to be a guarantor. Several days ticked by and it seemed red tape might actually kill her.

Friends went to the media. Ottawa, after some "foot dragging," says Michelle, made the flight happen.

"If we hadn't shaken them with the media," Michelle believes, "I would have died."

A few days later, a surgeon removed bone from her forehead, relieving pressure from her brain.

> **"If we hadn't shaken (Ottawa) with the media, I would have died."**
> Michelle Senayah

A remarkable recovery began. After the coma drugs were lifted, she awoke and her brain was clearly working. Her body had atrophied but otherwise worked in every way except one: Her sense of smell was gone.

Therapies began and, in July, the same surgeon filled the hole in her forehead with "space-age ceramic."

She has some memory trouble and also finds multitasking difficult. But healthcare workers are amazed by her recovery. It has been fast, and much more complete than anticipated.

And as for her relationship?

"I think we can survive anything after this," she says, "having seen what we can survive."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Festival of Lights **Ignatieff helps mark beginning of Hanukkah**

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff lights the first candle of the menorah yesterday with Rabbi Simcha Zirkind at the Zareinu Educational Centre at 7026 Bathurst St. Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights, started yesterday evening.

Students put teachers — in Santa suits — to the test

FUNDRAISING Somehow, students at Dr. Norman Bethune high school talked their teachers into dressing as Santas and taking a fitness test.

"Whenever you take a gym course, or try out for a team, you have to do a fitness test," explains Latif Murji, head of the school's personal and social responsibility committee, which co-ordinated 12 days of offbeat fundraising events. "It involves running back and forth, a 20-metre shuttle ... All the teachers collapsed when they were done."

With 20 teachers participating, more than 250 students paid $1 each to watch. The money is going to the Toronto Star's Santa Claus Fund, which is delivering gifts to 45,000 needy children.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Student downs 46 potato pancakes

HANUKKAH A 23-year-old mechanical engineering student downed 46 potato pancakes in eight minutes to win a contest at a Long Island, N.Y., deli.

Pete Czerwinski says he'd never eaten a latke before consuming about three kilos of them yesterday at Zan's in Lake Grove.

The Toronto bodybuilder says he's just "a power eater" whose brain never signals that he's full.

The pancakes are a traditional treat for Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights, which started yesterday evening.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suspects sought in armed robbery

BANK Police are looking for two men who stole bank cash at gunpoint.

The pair, in ski masks, walked into the CIBC branch on Eglinton Avenue West, near Keele Street, at 2 p.m. Friday.

One levelled a semi-automatic weapon at the tellers and demanded money, while the other walked behind the counter and ordered them to open the cash drawers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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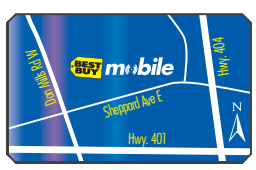

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Medical breakthrough
Toronto General Hospital researchers have developed a way to repair damaged lungs that until now have been unsuitable for transplant. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Now it's official: Winter hits GTA

As if on cue, the first day of winter was marked with a generous helping of snow after a series of storms pummelled the city — and hit other parts of the GTA even harder.

The rest of the country didn't fare much better. Snow and bone-chilling temperatures had the country firmly in hand, from Vancouver Island to the Atlantic provinces.

While the last in a series of storms blew through the Toronto area yesterday, an additional five to 10 centimetres of snow fell throughout the day. There were 26 centimetres of snow on the ground at Pearson airport last night, most of which accummulated since Friday's big storm.

Both plane and train travellers, meanwhile, suffered headaches as they tried to reach their holiday destinations.

Several planes flying out of Pearson were grounded for hours and some flights were cancelled. Problems persisted throughout the afternoon, but Greater Toronto Airport Authority spokesperson Trish Krale said things started easing up in the evening.

The Ontario Provincial Police and other local precincts responded to hundreds of accidents throughout the GTA yesterday, but according to OPP Sgt. Nathan Hele, most were minor.

Temperatures in the Toronto area are projected to rise over the next few days, but the skies are expected to continue sprinkling the city with a mix of rain and snow up until the New Year.

Those dreaming of a white Christmas in the GTA are likely to have their wish granted. Even though only light flurries are expected during the next few days, there won't be a shortage of snow on the ground.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Plow crew

- Toronto unleashed its 600 salt and shovel trucks to clear the roadways, but because of the amount of snow, it took the entire weekend to clear everything.

Cold flight **Soft landing?**

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kent Andries gets some air on a tube yesterday at Riverdale Park East while enjoying the snow.

Man's vehicle carjacked in Friday's storm

NO INJURIES A man returning to his parked car was left stranded in snowy east Toronto on Friday, after two suspects ordered him out of the vehicle.

The man was getting into his car, parked in the Sheppard Ave. E and Kennedy Rd. area, around 5 p.m. Friday when he was approached by the suspects.

One of the suspects grabbed and poked the victim with an unknown object and ordered him out of the vehicle.

The victim dropped his keys and wallet on the driver's seat and got out.

The suspects hopped in and drove off in an unknown direction.

The victim was not injured.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Holiday wishes for soldiers

The boxes of letters arrive at Kandahar Airfield by the planeload, filled with candid Christmas cards to Canadian troops serving in a country ravaged by conflict. The letters aren't addressed to any particular soldier. They are random notes of love and support from kids across Canada to those stationed half a world away. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

No more buck a beer

The Ontario government last month quietly hiked the minimum price that can be charged for beer, to $25.60 from $24 for a case of 24 bottles. That 6.7 per cent increase in the floor price of a case, bottle deposit excluded, has nothing to do with supply and demand, production costs, overhead or distribution expenses. Documents obtained under Ontario's freedom-of-information law show the Ministry of Finance, not the LCBO, pressed for higher beer prices — raising questions about the arm's-length relationship between the two bodies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Depression and sleep habits

The night seems endless when you suffer from depression.

"We know from sleep research studies depressed people have trouble falling asleep and staying asleep," said Rachel Morehouse, a psychiatrist who is an expert in sleep disorders and circadian rhythms at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

So it's hard to sleep, but what do you do about it?

Morehouse said the first thing to do is deal with the underlying problem, which is the depression. She suggested starting with the family doctor.

"It's something we can treat, so why suffer?"

And don't become a night owl. It might seem easiest to stay up late and sleep in but it's not a good idea, Morehouse said.

Keep your regular sleep-wake schedule and make your sleep environment as pleasant as possible. Take out all the distractions like the TV and make it relaxing.

Alcohol and marijuana might help you fall asleep, but it won't keep you there, Morehouse said. Plus, intoxicants don't give you the restorative sleep you need. Also, she advises eating properly, going for walks and meeting with friends to help with the blues.

JENNIFER TAPLIN
METRO CANADA

Anxious holidays

Not everyone is happy and joyful at this time of year

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

METRO FEATURE
Seasonal **Depression**

The high-energy Christmas carols and TV ads tell us the upcoming holidays are a time to be merry. But for anxious or depressed people, the pressure to be joyous can compound — not alleviate — their feelings.

Arto Tienaho said he suffered throughout much of his life from anxiety and depression — two different disorders that are often diagnosed together.

"(During the holidays), there's a sort of pressure that you're supposed to have fun, and if you're not, it exacerbates the condition," he said.

He described depression and anxiety as walking around with a perpetual perception of fear.

"It's the same feeling you get when you're driving on the highway and there's a semi right behind you."

During the winter, the early nightfall and bad weather intensify the problem, said Dr. Connie Coniglio, director of health literacy for B.C. Mental Health and Addiction Services.

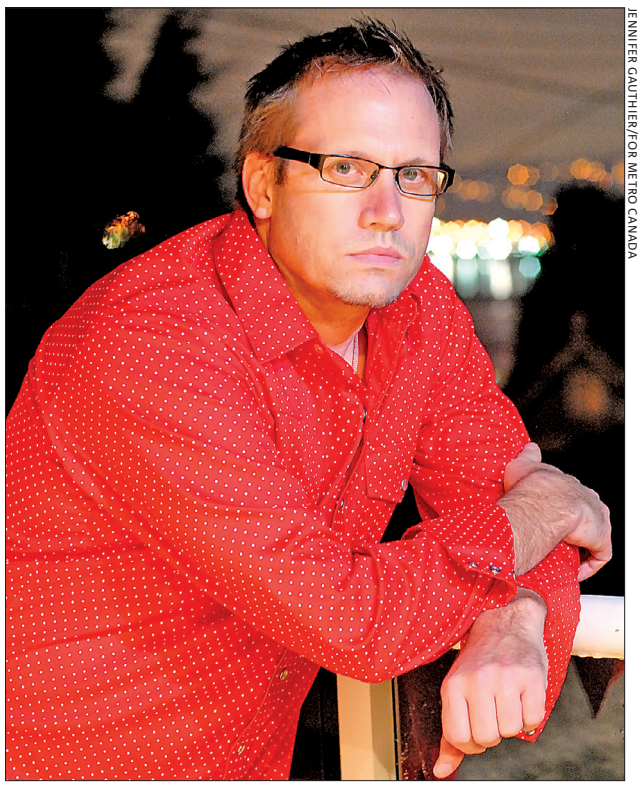
"Despite all the marketing that suggest the holidays are supposed to be such a wonderful time, a lot of people experience stress (over) finances, family relationships, loneliness, grief and loss."

Tienaho, who has his disorders under control and is now a manager at AnxietyBC, said it took years of trial-and-error to find respite.

"Education is a really important tool," he said, adding that "little things" like getting exercise and keeping a list of goals for the holidays help.

"Keep it simple," he said. "Commit to doing a 15- or 30-minute walk. Socialize with people who are positive influences in your life. And realize that you're not the only one … feeling down at this time.

"The sooner you can recognize (the stress) and intervene, the better you'll be."

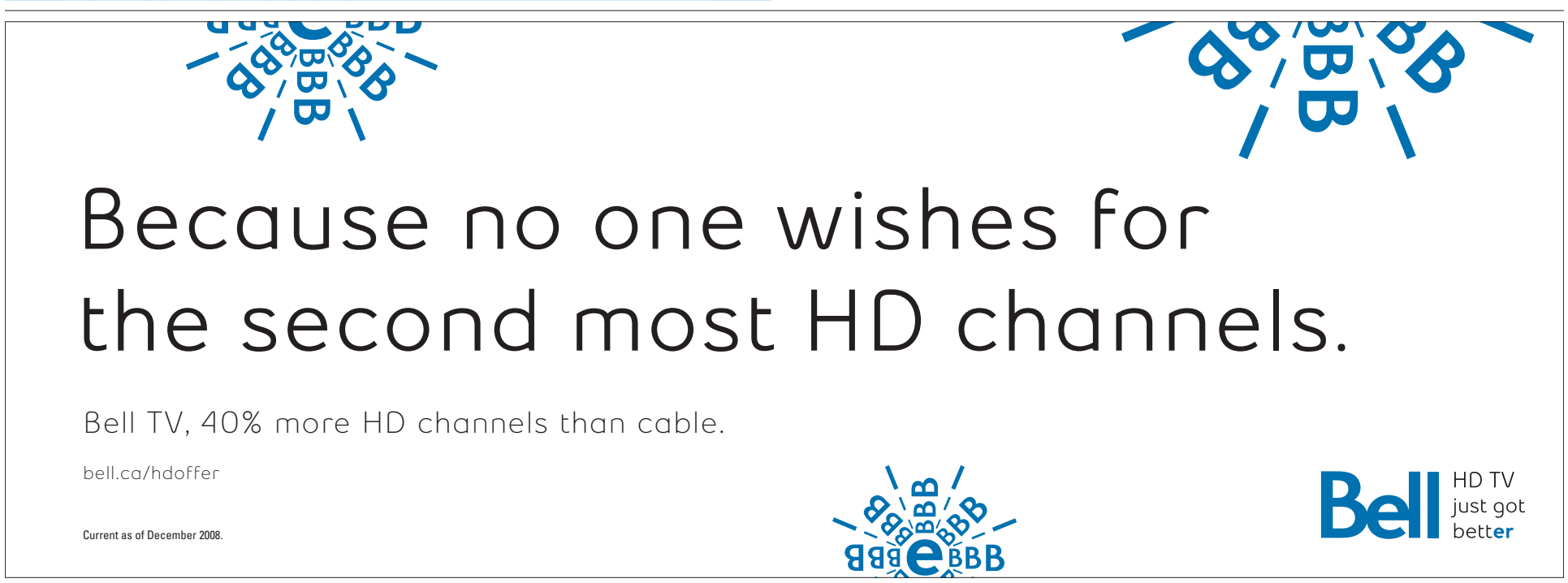


JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO CANADA

Arto Tienaho, who battled depression and anxiety throughout his life, stands outside his New Westminster, B.C., home. Tienaho said the pressure to have fun during the holidays can compound feelings of anxiety.

Tomorrow's Metro

The global economic meltdown and its effects on our workplaces are resulting in added stress as 2008 comes to an end. There are ways to alleviate that anxiety, experts say, and get through the layoffs, workplace instability and fears of what 2009 will bring.



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B.C. plane crash being investigated
The RCMP and Transport Canada are investigating what caused a plane to go down in B.C. None of the three people on board were hurt. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big names lining up for Senate jobs

Harper to fill 18 vacancies in upper house

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will do his bit this week to boost employment during dire economic times, appointing 18 Conservative faithful to cushy jobs in the Senate.

Among those rumoured to be in line for $134,000-a-year Senate seats are former broadcaster Pamela Wallin, former Prince Edward Island premier Pat Binns, erstwhile Conservative campaign chairman John Reynolds and onetime Olympic skiing champion Nancy Greene.

Harper's timing — just days before Christmas when few Canadians will be paying close attention — suggests he fears the spate of appointments to Parliament's unelected upper house won't be popular.

Indeed, opposition parties maintain Harper doesn't have the political legitimacy to go on such a patronage spree, having staved off almost-certain defeat of his minority government earlier this month only by suspending Parliament.

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Former broadcaster Pamela Wallin is rumoured to be in line for a Senate seat.

And the prime minister himself has admitted he takes no joy in having to stack the Senate, a move seen by some as tantamount to waving a white flag of surrender on his cherished dream of reforming the chamber.

"In a way, it's a sad day for me," Harper told a TV interviewer earlier this month.

"I've waited for three years. We've invited the provinces to hold elections. We've put an electoral bill before the House of Commons. But for the most part, neither in Parliament nor in the provinces has there been any willingness to move forward on reform."

Until now, Harper has appointed only two senators — Alberta's Bert Brown, victor of a Senate election in his province, and Michael Fortier, who got the plum so that Harper could have a minister from Montreal in his first-term cabinet.

Otherwise, he's refrained from making appointments, allowing 18 vacancies to accumulate as senators reached the retirement age of 75.

Initially, Harper had hoped to appoint only senators who had won election.

But his reforms ran into a brick wall in the minority Parliament and in a number of provincial legislatures — mainly Ontario and Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds, Ontario might become shareholders in GM, Chrysler

BAILOUT Canadian taxpayers could soon be shareholders in sputtering General Motors and Chrysler.

The federal and Ontario governments will receive warrants that give them the right to buy non-voting stock in the country's two biggest automakers as a condition of providing $4-billion worth of public loans.

The warrants will entitle the governments to buy about 20 per cent of the value of the loans, or $800 million, in shares in the two companies.

"The idea is to participate in the upside at some point in the future."
Federal official

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced the historic rescue package on Saturday but the warrant provision received little attention.

Federal and Ontario officials could not comment or offer more details on the provision, which the governments disclosed in a background document under the heading "security."

A senior federal official cautioned yesterday that possession of the warrants doesn't automatically make the governments shareholders. That only happens when they exercise them, he said.

"The idea is to participate in the upside at some point in the future," the official noted.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FOR MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 22

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Legal fees for Tory lawsuit under fire

Legal fees approaching $500,000 have become a sensitive issue in the lawsuit the Conservative party mounted against Elections Canada over an advertising scheme during the 2006 election. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stock donations drying up

The sorry state of stock markets is stoking concerns among Canada's largest charities that big-ticket, shares-based philanthropy will plummet with the indexes.

Over the last decade, capital-gains tax incentives for donated stocks have laid a philanthropist pipeline that has funnelled billions of dollars worth of shares to Canadian charities.

In 2007, Canadian donors gave about $1 billion of common stock to large institutions such as universities and hospitals, said the head of philanthropic advisory services at the Scotia Trust asset management company.

But the tumbling world economy could soon turn the stock contribution surge into a trickle, experts say.

"This year, it's almost nonexistent," said Scotia Trust's Malcolm Burrows.

"There's been a significant drop off, I'd say probably about 80 per cent."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tax benefits

- In 2006, the Conservative government removed the capital gains tax on stocks donated to public foundations and registered charities. Last year, the government eliminated the capital gains tax on gifts to private foundations.

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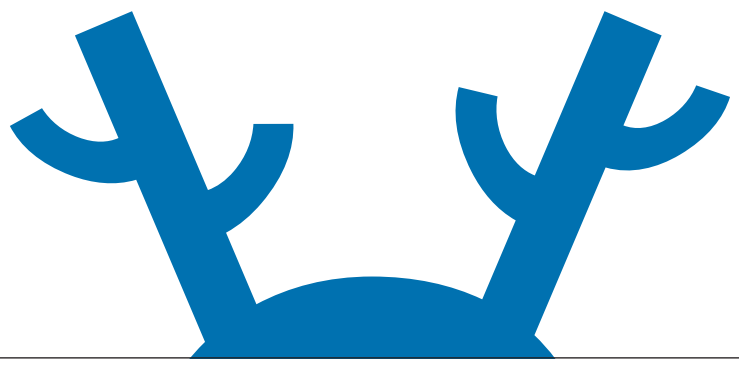

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Spaniards hoping for Christmas jackpot

People in Spain are anxiously awaiting the results for El Gordo ("the big one"), an annual Christmas lottery worth more than two billion euros. The winning numbers are scheduled to be announced today. METRO NEWS SERVICES

World

More Americans giving up pets

A growing number of Americans are giving up their dogs and cats to animal shelters as rising economic troubles make it harder for owners to afford the cost of keeping their pets. The effect has been cramped quarters for animals, a faster rate of euthanization in shelters and some organizations turning away people looking to surrender pets, according to several shelters and animal advocates. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza rockets strike Israel

Israel's top security official warned yesterday that Gaza fighters can hit more Israeli cities with longer-range rockets, on a day when rockets exploded in border towns and a coastal city after an Israel-Hamas truce expired.

One Israeli was lightly wounded in the barrage of 19 rockets and three mortars by nightfall. But after a weekend of heavy rocket attacks, Israel's government threatened to strike back hard.

One rocket exploded in Ashkelon, a city of about 120,000 on the Mediterranean coast 15 kilometres north of Gaza. In the past, Israel has responded harshly to attacks on Ashkelon.

Yuval Diskin, the head of the Shin Bet security service, warned Israel's cabinet that Hamas now has rockets that can reach the larger city of Ashdod farther north on the Mediterranean coast and even the outskirts of Beersheba, which lies 50 kilometres to the east. Such attacks would increase the likelihood of an Israeli invasion of Gaza.

"The scenarios are clear, the plans are clear, the determination is clear and so are the ramifications of each of the steps," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said at his cabinet's weekly meeting. "A responsible government is not happy to go to war, but does not evade it."

The government has been under heavy pressure to react to the rocket fire, but the military has so far been wary of doing so for fear of casualties. In the past, large operations have not succeeded in stopping the rockets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Background

- A truce between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers expired Friday after six months. The truce had frayed since early November, and rocket fire at Israeli towns has been increasing steadily in recent days.

Lockerbie remembers Pan Am plane bombing

SCOTLAND Ceremonies were held yesterday in the Scottish town of Lockerbie to mark the 20th anniversary of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in which 270 people were killed.

More than 150 people attended a wreath-laying ceremony at Lockerbie's Dryfesdale Cemetery, which has a memorial stone in honour of those who died.

Two churches in the area held services to coincide with the moment the plane came down, just after 7 p.m. on Dec. 21, 1988.

All 259 people on board the flight from Heathrow to New York were killed when a bomb exploded on the plane as it flew over Lockerbie. Another 11 people died on the ground.

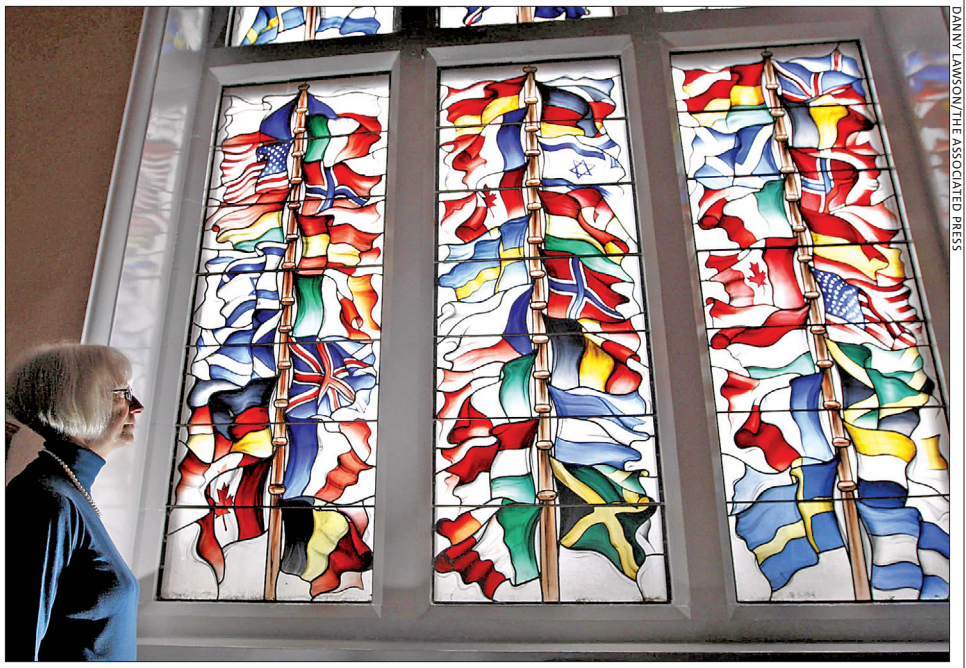
Libyan secret agent Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi is the sole person to have been convicted of the bombing.

But but he has won the right to appeal against his January 2001 conviction by successfully convincing judges that a "miscarriage of justice" may have occurred during his trial.

Al-Megrahi, who is suffering from prostate cancer, is due to have his appeal heard next year.

Libya has paid several billion dollars in compensation to the families of Lockerbie victims, and has accepted "general responsibility" for the attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



DANNY LAWSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Local resident Susan Neal stands in front of a stained glass window in Lockerbie Town Hall in Scotland yesterday, which depicts the flags of all the nations that lost citizens when Pan Am Flight 103 was blown apart above the Scottish border town on Dec. 21, 1988.

Russian police crush protest against car import tariffs

VIOLENCE Riot police clubbed, kicked and detained dozens of people in Russia's Far East yesterday as hundreds across the country protested an increase in car import tariffs.

Inflation, rising unemployment and a slide in the ruble have driven discontent and the Kremlin fears the deteriorating economic situation could lead to public unrest.

With domestic car production suffering, the government announced this month higher import tariffs on automobiles. Demonstrations have been most vehement in Vladivostok, Russia's largest Pacific port, through which nearly all cars from Japan are imported.

Yesterday, after authorities refused to authorize a demonstration in the city square where it was planned, several hundred people gathered on Vladivostok's main square.

Waiting riot police began hauling men and women into waiting vans as people chanted "Fascists!" and "Shame! Shame!"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Targeting media

- An Associated Press reporter saw at least 10 journalists detained by police, who demanded that several journalists turn over videotapes and photo memory chips.

9 decapitated bodies found in Mexico

FATALITIES Mexican authorities say they have found the decapitated bodies of nine men in the southern state of Guerrero. Some victims have been identified as soldiers.

The bodies were found on a boulevard in the state capital, Chilpancingo.

Mexican drug cartels have increasingly taken to chopping the heads off their victims, who include rival traffickers or lawmen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

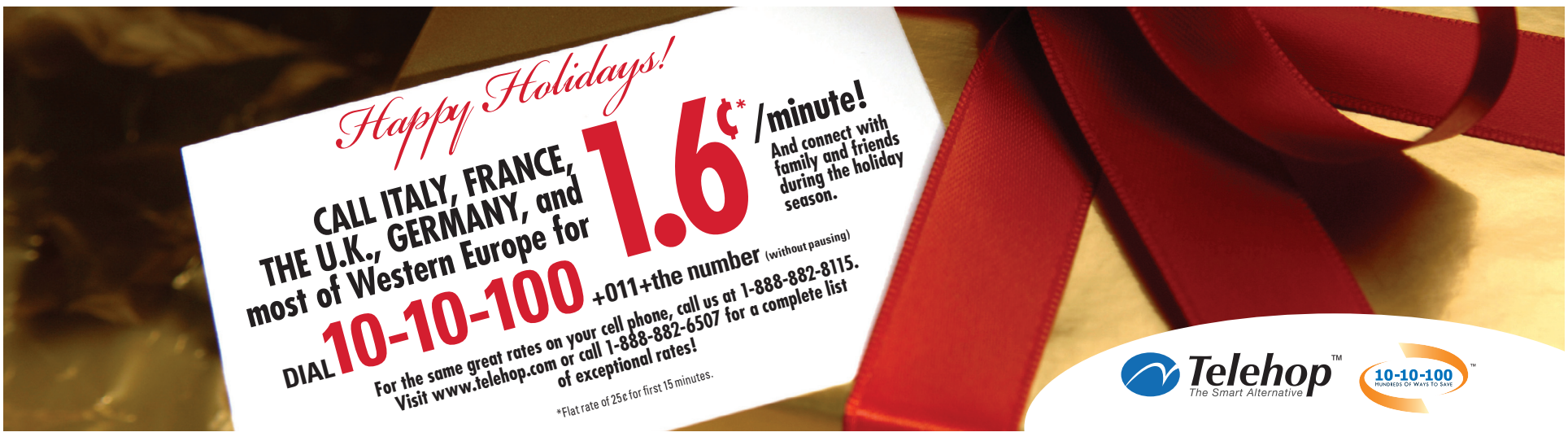
News in brief

SRI LANKA A rebel-affiliated website says a pre-emptive strike against Sri Lankan troops has killed 60 soldiers close to the insurgents' northern headquarters. The TamilNet website reports the guerrillas attacked soldiers preparing for an offensive Saturday in Iranamadu village, south of the rebels' de facto capital, Kilinochchi.

VATICAN Pope Benedict is marking the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of the telescope to study the heavens. Speaking on the winter solstice, Benedict said yesterday understanding the laws of nature can stimulate understanding and appreciation of the Lord's works.

MAURITANIA The deposed president of Mauritania, Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi, was set free yesterday after 4½ months under house arrest and began working to retake power from the junta that overthrew him, a spokesman said. France welcomed his release and called for the junta that rules his northwest African country to step down.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Madeleine McCann's parents issue new video, seeking information

The parents of missing British girl Madeleine McCann have released a new video appealing for information about her. The video shows footage of Madeleine singing and playing at the family home and closes with the words: "This will be our second Christmas without our daughter. Please help us make sure we don't have a third." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. rejects unity deal that leaves Mugabe as president

AFRICA The U.S. can no longer support a proposed Zimbabwean power-sharing deal that would leave Robert Mugabe, "a man who's lost it," as president, the top U.S. envoy for Africa told reporters yesterday.

This new U.S. stance will put pressure on Zimbabwe's neighbours — South Africa in particular — to abandon Mugabe. But South Africa said its position was unchanged.

Jendayi Frazer, the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said the U.S. has become convinced Mugabe is incapable of sharing power.

She cited political moves he has made since September without consulting the opposition, reports his regime has continued to harass and arrest opposition and human-rights activists, and the continued deterioration of Zimbabwe's humanitarian and economic situation as proof of his instability.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Background

- When the power-sharing agreement was announced, the U.S. gave crucial support, offering to lift sanctions and help Zimbabwe renegotiate relations with international lenders if the deal were implemented.

Airliner bursts into flames

A firefighter said yesterday it was a miracle that no one was killed when an airliner veered sharply off a runway during takeoff, burst into flames and nearly broke apart.

There was no official word on the possible cause of the crash of Continental Flight 1404 at Denver International Airport. Federal investigators arrived at the airport yesterday afternoon.

"It was a miracle ... that everybody survived the impact and the fire. It was just amazing." Bill Davis

The entire right side of the Boeing 737 was burned in the Saturday evening accident and melted plastic from overhead compartments dripped onto the seats.

"It was a miracle ... that everybody survived the impact and the fire," said Bill Davis, an assistant Denver fire chief assigned to the airport. "It was just amazing."

A crack encircled much of the fuselage near the trailing edge of the wings, and the left engine had broken loose and come to a rest about 10 metres away, Davis said.

Davis said the plane came to a rest about 200 metres from one of the airport's four fire stations. He said passengers walked out of the ravine in severe cold and crowded inside the station.

The 110 passengers and five crew members left the plane on emergency slides, officials said. Thirty-eight people suffered injuries, including broken bones.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Netherlands **Pink Christmas**

PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Miss Wendy," centre, portraying the Virgin Mary in drag, holds his three-month-old niece Lily Pink Albers as he poses with other men at a tableau of the nativity in the garden of Bar Arc in Amsterdam, Netherlands, yesterday. Amsterdam is currently hosting its first Pink Christmas for gays.

Plot to kill Bolivian President Morales uncovered: Chavez

SOUTH AMERICA Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez says a plot to assassinate his friend and ally Evo Morales of Bolivia has been uncovered.

Chavez says the Bolivian president told him that authorities in the Andean country had "discovered an assassination plot."

The Venezuelan leader said during a radio broadcast that he wouldn't go into details — leaving that to Bolivian officials.

Morales has faced persistent protests by opponents but won a recall referendum to reaffirm his mandate in August.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan sought U.S. nuclear shield against China in 1965

HISTORY Japan's longest-serving prime minister asked the U.S. in 1965 to deploy nuclear weapons against China if war broke out between the Asian rivals, according to newly declassified government files obtained by the Kyodo news agency.

During his first trip to Washington as the prime minister, Eisaku Sato told then-defence secretary Robert McNamara that the U.S. could launch a nuclear attack on China if needed, Kyodo said yesterday.

China triggered U.S. and Japanese concerns after Beijing tested its first atomic bomb on Oct. 16, 1964. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Principles

- In 1967, Sato introduced Japan's "three non-nuclear principles," which state that Japan will not own or make nuclear weapons, nor permit them into Japanese territory.

News in brief

U.S. The first openly gay member of Congress said yesterday it was a mistake for president-elect Barack Obama to invite Rev. Rick Warren to deliver the invocation at his inauguration. "Mr. Warren compared same-sex couples to incest. I found that deeply offensive and unfair," Rep. Barney Frank said in a broadcast interview.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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548 Church St.
416-644-9094
662 King St. W., Unit 2
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Bloor W. Village, 2400 Bloor St. W.
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2266 Eglington Ave W.
416-784-4151
154 University Ave., Suite 101
416-506-0809
55 Chauncey Ave.
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416-322-9079
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386 Sheppard Ave. E., Unit A
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Comment

Pat on back for Christmas

HineSight

Anne Hines

I want everyone to stop for just a moment, think of something you did well today, or even just that you did. Getting out of bed counts. Getting out of bed prepared to try to make it through another day counts even more.

As a gift this Christmas, I'd like to offer readers two tips. One, as you elbow your way through stores searching for those final gifts, repeat this calming mantra "I can always give everyone a cheque. I can always give everyone a cheque."

And, as you contemplate all those little joys yet to be ticked off your list, the cooking, baking, getting your Prozac prescription refilled, my second piece of advice is this: At all costs, avoid behaving like me.

Yesterday, I finished writing a book. I don't mention this as a means of shameless self-promotion.

Shameless self-promotion would be to say that the title is Parting Gifts: Notes on Loss, Love and Life; it's published by McArthur & Co., and that it will be available in fall '09. I would never stoop to that.

The point is, whenever I finish writing a book, I'm exhausted and muddled. I no longer know what the book is about. I'm not sure I care what the book is about. And, I'm feeling entirely unappreciated by my evil, evil publisher who won't let me have the one thing I need to make the book really good: Four more lifetimes to work on it.

I always announce to my partner, Liz, that I am never writing another book. Not if my life depends on it. Or, the life of the entire free world.

Or even, say, if space aliens came to earth and threatened to blow the place up, "Unless the Hines human dashes off 1,000 words on Why We Revere Space Aliens."

Instead, I dream of a job at Dairy Queen. Not only does dipping ice cream into chocolate seem like a greater service to the world, I suspect the pay is better.

There is one thing I never do when I finish a book. I don't pause, tell myself I'm an amazing being for having accomplished something and that no matter how good or bad the end result may be, the measure of success is simply to have tried.

So, in these final days before the holiday, don't be like me. I want everyone to stop for just a moment, think of something you did well today, or even just that you did.

Getting out of bed counts. Getting out of bed prepared to try to make it through another day counts even more. Now, give yourself a gift for Christmas: A pat on the back.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

It's back to basics during winter

InTransit

Ed Drass

transit@eddrass.com

How was it navigating to your local transit stop this morning?

Winter's back and so is the need to concentrate on basic things — like walking.

For bus drivers, the challenge is finding enough space between snowbanks to open both sets of doors at clear patches of pavement.

Want to do something for your neighbours and fellow transit riders?

Help ensure they have ice-free sidewalks. In particular, residents in older parts of Toronto are responsible for clearing the walk in front of their homes — within 12 hours of a storm.

And being away on holiday is no excuse.

Too many people ignore this bylaw but the City of Toronto has decided not to bring back its "Be Nice, Clear Your Ice" campaign because of the cost.

Would a grassroots neighbour-to-neighbour reminding effort work? I wonder.

Toronto seniors can register for snow crews to assist with shovelling, but it may take up to 72 hours to reach all areas.

In any part of the GTA, if you think the municipality has forgotten to clean a sidewalk or transit stop after all others are finished, you can help.

Most local governments have a hotline with information on the snow-clearing process and a way to report untouched areas.

The official website toronto.ca says bus stops "will generally be ploughed within 48 hours" after a snowfall. I'm told most were to be clear by this morning.

****

In my ongoing search for gifts and trinkets of use to transit riders, the hunt includes products that hold transit passes.

Some workers have lanyards for wearing identification around their necks, but there's no easy way to attach a TTC Metropass. It's hard to put a hole in the hard plastic pass — my dollar-store hole-punch couldn't do it.

You can try asking a subway collector but not when there's a lineup — and don't expect a yes. Punching passes is not officially part of their duties. Or you could buy a special plastic sleeve to hang from the lanyard.

You can get one for 30 cents at the Ryerson University bookstore near Dundas subway station.

The TTC considered putting holes in each of the 5.5 million passes it orders annually, but decided the $100,000 cost was too high.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday.

Quick Tip

• A few years ago, a reader asked if the TTC could sell January Metropasses before people started leaving town for the holidays. Since then, passes have been available earlier than usual — and they're on sale now. See ttc.ca for holiday hours of service and fare deals.

Letters

Smaller Ontario communities ignored

I am extremely saddened to see the amount of attention the automotive-industry bailout is getting in the media. I rarely see the devastating news of layoffs and mill closures in smaller Ontario communities like Kenora, Dryden, Thunder Bay, Terrace Bay and Fort Frances over the past few years.

For Dryden, a one-industry town, the continued cutting of staff and the permanent shutdown of its paper machine this year leave many wondering about the stability of the town.

Yes, these towns are considerably smaller than the giant cities, but deserve just as much attention by our governments and media than they have been receiving.

VICKI WALCHUK, TORONTO

When just five seconds can save someone

Many women are quite familiar with a program created by the TTC called Request Stop. This program aims to protect women travelling at night. It allows women to request the driver to stop the bus anywhere between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

As a woman who lives near Jane and Finch, I take advantage of this program quite often when I go home late at night. I have never had any problem with this program or any bus driver.

But on Dec. 16, I took the 41 Keele bus home. It was 8:48 p.m. when I requested the bus driver to stop the bus. To my surprise, he refused since it was not 9 p.m.!

I had to walk across an area where troubled individuals usually hang out. A request for a stop usually takes less than five seconds, but those few moments might actually save a life.

TRANG NGUYEN, NORTH YORK

Our troops deserve more credit for Afghan job

It would be nice if our troops in Afghanistan got a little more credit for the hard and dangerous work they are doing. Despite our seven-year effort, nobody on the international stage seems to be giving Canadians any credit for our excellent job in anti-terrorism. I think nations like the U.S. and Great Britain could learn a thing or two from Canadians on how to handle terrorism.

GEOFFREY DONOVAN STINES, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Internet outage from Cairo to Dubai

Slow and spotty Internet access marked the first workday in the Middle East as telecom crews scrambled to fix communication cables under the Mediterranean Sea, which were damaged Friday. The cause of the cuts is not yet known. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

No Times in China?

The New York Times says China has blocked access to the newspaper's website — days after Beijing defended its right to censor online content it deems illegal. The paper says users who logged on in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou received a message saying the site was not available when they tried to connect Friday morning. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Auto aid on the way

Canada will provide the struggling auto sector with $4 billion in emergency loans in a bid to avoid a "catastrophic" collapse of the industry, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Saturday, as he urged the automakers to use the funding to get their businesses in order.

The announcement by Harper and Premier Dalton McGuinty in Toronto came a day after U.S. President George W. Bush offered $17.4 billion US in emergency loans to General Motors and Chrysler.

"We are doing this on the assumption that we cannot afford either in the United States or Canada a catastrophic short-term collapse," said Harper.

"We are doing this with the knowledge that the automakers must change the way they're doing business in a very serious way and must bring their products on their costs into line with the market place."

The companies will get the money in three instalments, with the first portion coming Dec. 29.

McGuinty said Ontario will provide $1.3 billion of the total loan package to General Motors and Chrysler. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The plan

- Totals are based on U.S. aid and proportional to their Canadian production.
- General Motors will receive up to $3 billion.
- Chrysler will receive up to $1 billion.

Business in brief

FORESTRY Loggers who work for the AbitibiBowater mill in Newfoundland and Labrador have been told to go home by the company, the union says, despite no news of any shutdowns. The company plans to shut down the mill next March. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LEGAL King Albert is consulting with Belgian political leaders to limit a crisis over allegations that government officials interfered in a court case involving the Fortis bank bailout. The prime minister has offered to resign. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ireland Upside to a downturn?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/PETER MORRISON

Gyn Farrell from Dublin fills her car at the Quays Shopping Centre in Newry, Northern Ireland on Saturday. Thousands of people from the Irish Republic are travelling to the border town to shop because of the weak British pound.

Economy will near depression: Turner

OPINION Former MP Garth Turner believes Canada's gross domestic product will plunge five to eight per cent from the beginning of the recession, which he believes began after Labour Day, to the end, which he says won't come until early 2010.

As well, he expects housing prices will plunge another 30 per cent next year — on top of the 11 per cent drop so far this year.

For the first time since the Dirty Thirties, Turner expects many Canadians will wind up owing more on their homes than what their home is worth — that's not a depression, as he sees it, but pretty darn close. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank execs awarded $1.6B in '08

BENEFITS Banks that are getting taxpayer bailouts awarded their top executives nearly $1.6 billion US in salaries, bonuses and other benefits last year, an Associated Press analysis reveals.

Benefits included cash bonuses, stock options, personal use of company jets and chauffeurs, home security, country club memberships and professional money management, the review of federal securities documents found.

The total amount given to nearly 600 executives would cover bailout costs for many of the 116 banks that have so far accepted tax dollars to boost their bottom lines.

Rep. Barney Frank, chairman of the House Financial Services committee, said the bonuses tallied by the review amount to a bribe "to get them to do the jobs for which they are well paid in the first place.

"Most of us sign on to do jobs and we do them best we can," said Frank.

"We're told that some of the most highly paid people in executive positions are different. They need extra money to be motivated!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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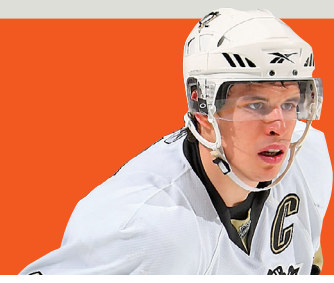
APOTEX ADVANCING GENERICS

Bergeron released from hospital
Boston Bruins forward Patrice Bergeron, who missed most of last season with a concussion, was released from hospital yesterday after being diagnosed with another concussion. He was injured in Saturday's game against the Carolina Hurricanes. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Crosby blows away record

Sidney Crosby surpassed Jaromir Jagr's record for the most votes received by a player in NHL all-star game fan balloting yesterday. Crosby passed the 1,020,736-vote mark that Jagr set in 2000 while with the Penguins. Crosby's Penguins teammate Evgeni Malkin was also poised to top the record. There is still almost two weeks of voting remaining.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Remember the '58 Bulls

Fifty years ago, racism kept Buffalo from a bowl game. Toronto is its first one since

John Chick
john.chick@metronews.ca

Fifty years sounds like a long time. To Willie Evans, it seems like yesterday.

The 1958 University of Buffalo Bulls football team went 8-1 and for the first time, received a coveted NCAA bowl invite. The Tangerine Bowl was an Orlando, Florida fixture back then. But there were other fixtures in U.S. south, and the leaseholders of the game told Buffalo that the team would only be welcome if they came without their two black players — running back Evans and defensive end Mike Wilson.

"The fellows I played with did a remarkable job of drawing a line in the sand," Evans recounted last week.

That line in the sand was opting not to go. The coach left it up to the team to decide, and they unanimously rejected the invite.

"I wasn't surprised," said Evans. "But for the players to do what they did was remarkable."

Half a century later, the world has changed, sportwise and socially. A third NCAA bowl game will be played in Toronto on Jan. 3 and an African American will be sworn in as president of the United States 17 days later.

This year's UB Bulls went 8-5, stunning Ball State in the Mid-American Conference title game to earn the International Bowl bid at the Rogers Centre. Having rejected the invite in 1958, it will be their first bowl appearance ever, facing the University of Connecticut.

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

The Buffalo Bulls celebrate the MAC championship after defeating Ball State on Dec. 5. The win earned them a berth in the International Bowl in Toronto.

Before the game, Evans and members of that golden anniversary team will be honoured.

"The word I would use is 'ecstatic,'" said UB athletic director Warde Manuel. "I'm excited for the '58 team, that they're going to have a bowl experience."

Evans meanwhile, who has spent 36 years with the school's alumni association, wants the focus on today's players.

"The tributes should be made to the current," said Evans. "We dealt with it, and we dealt with it extremely well."

Much of UB's recent success can be attributed to head coach and former CFL player Turner Gill.

That success has raised his stock on the NCAA coaching ladder, and last week NBA legend Charles Barkley accused his alma mater, Auburn University, of racism in passing over the African-American Gill in favour of former Iowa State coach Gene Chizik (for the record, Gill signed an extension to stay at Buffalo a day later). While Evans is happy Gill is staying put, he doesn't disagree with Barkley's opinion.

"I think it's apparent that the hiring of African-American coaches (in U.S. college football) is in need of improvement across the board," Evans said. Of 119 schools in the three levels of NCAA football, four have black head coaches.

"We've still got a way's to go, and I think that's reflective of what Charles Barkley said."

Davis hospitalized after accident

NBA Boston Celtics forward Glen (Big Baby) Davis was hospitalized yesterday with whiplash and a concussion after being involved in a traffic accident on his way to the Celtics-Knicks game, ESPN reported.

The accident on the Massachusetts Turnpike happened around 2:30 p.m. No further details of the accident were immediately available, although snow fell throughout the day yesterday, making for hazardous driving conditions. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Former pitcher Ellis dies

MLB Dock Ellis, who infamously claimed he pitched a no-hitter for the Pittsburgh Pirates under the influence of LSD and later fiercely spoke out against drug and alcohol addiction, died Friday. He was 63. Ellis died in California from a liver ailment, former agent Tom Reich said. In 1970, Ellis overcame eight walks to pitch a no-hitter in the first game of a doubleheader at San Diego. Several years after he retired, the right-hander said he was high on LSD during the victory.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

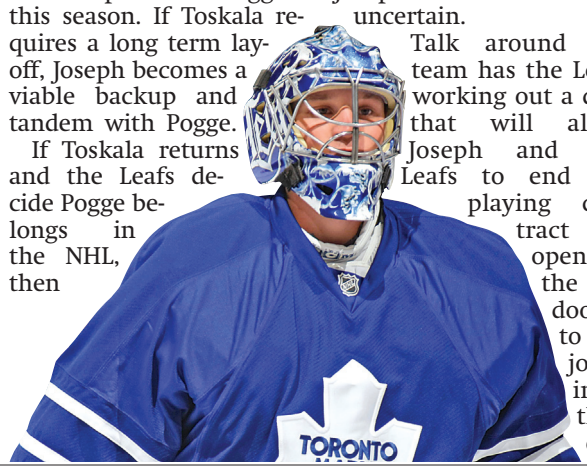
Justin Pogge's opportunity is now as Toskala heals

Justin Pogge flew out of a snowstorm in Hartford yesterday and arrived in Atlanta to open the most important chapter of his hockey career.

Pogge's flight out of Hartford was delayed when he got the callup from the Marlies, and he logged his goalie equipment bag through the sprawling Atlanta airport. It was a somewhat unceremonious, but fitting, entrance onto a Leafs stage where goaltending was thrust into question with Vesa Toskala's groin injury in Pittsburgh Saturday night.

Pogge will finally get a serious look — one that could make him an immediate factor on the Leafs roster — while Toskala rests a groin injury that has flared up for the second time in his two seasons with the Leafs.

Toskala was to return to Toronto yesterday and begin an unspecified rest period. Curtis Joseph remains the backup, and is arguably needed more than ever despite his struggles this season. If Toskala requires a long term layoff, Joseph becomes a viable backup and tandem with Pogge.



If Toskala returns and the Leafs decide Pogge belongs in the NHL, then Joseph's future becomes uncertain.

Talk around the team has the Leafs working out a deal that will allow Joseph and the Leafs to end his playing contract and open the door to a job in the organization, likely at the coaching level (the Senators did that with veteran Luke Richardson earlier this month).

All of that pivots on Pogge, though, and the 22-year-old, who is expected to start tonight when the Leafs face Atlanta, is obviously anxious to finally step onto the big stage.

"I never put a timeline on my career, it's not my decision to make the call (to the NHL), I'm just excited to be here," said Pogge. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

SNOWBOARDING Kimiko Zakreski of Calgary and Jasey Jay Anderson of Mont-Tremblant, Que., placed fifth and sixth respectively in the parallel giant slalom races yesterday at a snowboard World Cup event. Zakreski was second in the first qualifying run and 27th in the second to stand ninth overall heading into the playoff round. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top spots for Canuck cross-country skiers

Canada's Graham Nishikawa and Madeleine Williams won gold in the men's and women's cross-country ski distance races yesterday at the Haywood Norams in Duntroon, Ont. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Man U wins Club World Cup

SOCCER Wayne Rooney scored late in the second half yesterday to lead Manchester United to a 1-0 win over Ecuador's Liga de Quito in the final of the Club World Cup. Rooney, who was named player of the tournament, took a pass from Cristiano Ronaldo in the 73rd minute and fired an angled right-footed blast into the bottom corner past diving Liga goalkeeper Jose Cevallos.

"It was a very difficult game, especially after going down to 10 men," said Rooney. "I'm very happy to have scored, and for us to become the best club in the world is something we can be very proud of."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tyrell out, Kane in for Jrs.

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Cody Hodgson and the Canadian world junior team are off to an outstanding start in exhibition action.

Hodgson, the 10th overall pick of the Vancouver Canucks in last June's NHL draft, had two goals and four assists in a pair of weekend victories, including last night's 7-3 triumph over Finland at Hershey Centre in Mississauga.

His line, with Zach Boychuk and Jordan Eberle, was an instant hit, combining for 12 points in two games.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dana Tyrell, right, was injured during Friday's exhibition game against Sweden.

John Tavares and Jamie Benn also chipped in offensively, scoring a pair of goals each; Stefan Della Rovere had a goal and two assists; and Ryan Ellis had three assists.

Last night's game was tied 3-3 early in the third period when Canada scored four unanswered goals.

Canada, which also beat Sweden 4-2 on Friday at Air Canada Centre in Toronto, returns to action against Slovakia on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Eastern in Hamilton, Ont.

The WJC starts Boxing Day in Ottawa.

In other Team Canada news, forward Dana Tyrell suffered a significant knee injury and was sent home. Evander Kane, an offensively gifted forward eligible for the 2009 NHL draft, will replace him. He has 48 points in 28 games for the WHL's Vancouver Giants this season.

Soccer **Let me take that**

AP PHOTO/LIONEL CIRONNEAU

AS Monaco goalkeeper Stephane Ruffier, right, challenges for the ball with Bordeaux's Fernando Cavenaghi during their French League One match yesterday. Bordeaux won 4-3.

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Dome imploded in Indianapolis
In less than half a minute, the former home of the Indianapolis Colts was reduced to a pile of rubble. A demolition crew imploded the RCA Dome on Saturday, setting off 875 charges that brought down the 24-year-old facility's upper floors in about 25 seconds. The dome's fabric roof was deflated in September. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lions one loss away from infamy

NFL ROUNDUP

Saints 42 Lions 7

The Detroit Lions own a dubious piece of NFL history — with perhaps more on the way.

Detroit became the first 0-15 team ever when it was routed 42-7 by the New Orleans Saints yesterday. The Lions will try to avoid a perfectly awful season in the finale at Green Bay, where they haven't won since 1991.

"It's very real," centre Dominic Raiola said. "It's right there in front of us.

"It's pretty sad that it's come to this."

Drew Brees threw for 351 yards and two touchdowns after four Saints ran for scores in the first half. Brees stayed in the game with a 35-point lead late in the fourth quarter to move closer to Dan Marino's single-season record for yards passing. He needs 402 at home against Carolina to break Marino's record of 5,084 set in 1984.

TITANS 31, STEELERS 14

The Tennessee Titans showed why the AFC playoffs will be running through the Music City by dominating the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Kerry Collins threw for a touchdown, Chris Johnson and LenDale White ran for a score apiece, and the Titans routed the Steelers 31-14 in a showdown of the AFC's best teams. Tennessee clinched the No. 1 seed and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Titans improved the NFL's best record to 13-2 with their 15th win in 17 games. But they were coming off a loss to Houston in which they failed to score a touchdown for the first time this year and were up against the NFL's stingiest defence.

They snapped back very well, ending the Steelers' five-game winning streak and becoming the first team to top 300 yards against Pittsburgh (11-4) this season.

DOLPHINS 38, CHIEFS 31

In the coldest game they ever played, the Miami Dolphins stayed hot. Chad Pennington threw three touchdown passes and the Dolphins beat the Kansas City Chiefs 38-31, continuing one of the most remarkable comeback seasons in NFL history in temperatures that plunged into the single digits.

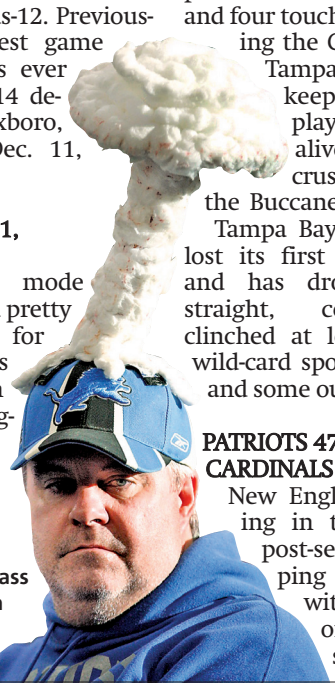
The temperature at kickoff was 10, with a wind chill of minus-12. Previously, the coldest game the Dolphins ever played was 14 degrees at Foxboro, Mass., on Dec. 11, 1977.

CHARGERS 41, BUCS 24

Survival mode seems to be a pretty good fit for Philip Rivers and the San Diego Chargers.

STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES

Hines Ward of the Pittsburgh Steelers is hit hard by Cortland Finnegan of the Titans after catching a touchdown pass yesterday. Tennessee won 31-14 to clinch home field throughout the AFC playoffs.



A Lions fan shows his approval for weapons of mass destruction on his team yesterday.

The NFL's highest-rated passer threw for 287 yards and four touchdowns, helping the Chargers beat Tampa Bay 41-24 to keep their slim playoff hopes alive and deal a crushing blow to the Buccaneers' chances.

Tampa Bay (9-6), which lost its first home game and has dropped three straight, could have clinched at least an NFC wild-card spot with a win and some outside help.

PATRIOTS 47, CARDINALS 7

New England is peaking in time for the post-season, whipping Arizona 47-7 with a blizzard of points on a snow-covered field yesterday.

It won't keep the Cardinals out of the playoffs. And it might not be enough to get the Patriots in. Miami, tied with the Patriots at 10-5 but with the tiebreaker edge, would win the AFC East with a victory over the New York Jets next Sunday. Baltimore would get the AFC's one available wild-card spot by beating Jacksonville, leaving New England out for the first time in six years.

But yesterday, the Patriots showed total superiority to the struggling champions of the weak NFC West. They pressured Kurt Warner into one of his worst games in 11 pro seasons as he threw for just 30 yards.

BILLS 30, BRONCOS 23

Now it all comes down to a trip to San Diego for the right to represent the woeful AFC West in the playoffs.

The Broncos blew an early 13-0 lead and lost to the Buffalo Bills 30-23 in the second-coldest game in Denver's history, setting up an all-or-nothing game against the Chargers next week for the division title and a playoff berth.

The Broncos (8-7) led the Chargers (7-8) by three games with three to go, but now face the possibility of having led the West by themselves from opening weekend through Christmas with nothing to show for it.

The Bills are the fourth out of the last five visitors to Invesco Field to leave with a win.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians dominate aerials

SKIING Canadian aerialists captured all six available medals yesterday in Nor-Am freestyle ski action. Olivier Rochon of Gatineau, Que., and Genevieve Tougas of Saint Hubert, Que., won for the second straight day to lead the Canadian sweep. Like Rochon, Tougas challenged a career-best score. "Yesterday (Saturday) I got a better score, but today (Sunday) I felt I jumped better," said Tougas.

Versatile Argo Winters retires

CFL Chuck Winters, who spent six seasons with the Toronto Argonauts and was part of the club's 2004 Grey Cup championship squad, announced his retirement Friday. Winters, 34, was a versatile performer for Toronto, appearing in 82 regular-season games and eight playoff contests at linebacker and defensive back. But he was also one of the Argos busiest players off the field, making more than 900 appearances in the community for the CFL club. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Singh wins Tiger's charity tourney

GOLF Vijay Singh finished off the golf season in style, making a 10-foot birdie putt on the final hole yesterday for a one-shot victory over Steve Stricker in the Chevron World Challenge. Singh closed with a 5-under 67 at Sherwood Country Club and won Tiger Woods' charity event for the first time. He finished at 11-under 277 and earned $1.35 million US. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 24 Minnesota 17
Buffalo 30 Denver 23
Cincinnati 14 Cleveland 0
Miami 38 Kansas City 31
New England 47 Arizona 7
New Orleans 42 Detroit 7
Oakland 27 Houston 16
San Francisco 17 St. Louis 16
San Diego 41 Tampa Bay 24
Seattle 13 N.Y. Jets 3
Tennessee 31 Pittsburgh 14
Washington 10 Philadelphia 3
Carolina at N.Y. Giants

SATURDAY'S RESULT
Baltimore 33 Dallas 24

TONIGHT'S GAME
Green Bay at Chicago

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Carolina 3 Montreal 2 (OT)
Boston 6 St. Louis 3
Florida 3 Colorado 0
New Jersey 3 Philadelphia 2 (SO)

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Pittsburgh at Buffalo
Toronto at Atlanta
Phoenix at Edmonton
Anaheim at Vancouver

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 85 Detroit 78
Boston 124 New York 105
Cleveland 102 Oklahoma City 91
Dallas 97 Washington 86

Let the sunshine in

To cut heating energy and costs in winter, on sunny days open your south-facing drapes and let the sun in, according to SaskEnergy. The sun is a natural source of heat. If you have large windows that don't receive direct sun, keep the drapes closed. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Going Green

Holiday shopping tips

Some tips to go green this holiday season. Don't fear shopping at thrift stores. A thoughtful gift will mean more than an expensive gift. Stuck on sweaters or socks as gift ideas? Give an assortment of CFL light bulbs, or replace someone's old Christmas lights with energy saving LED lights. Reuse gift bags. Don't throw them out when they still look perfectly new. NEWS CANADA

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Here are a few bright ideas

Saving on your energy bills doesn't have to leave you in the cold this winter

MATTHEW DEFAVERI
Metro World News

A class at Oklahoma State University is working with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and spearheading a campaign around Earth Hour to raise awareness for energy conservation. The students shared some of their tips with Metro.

1 Use your ceiling fans, even in the winter. By reversing the fan blades to create an updraft (recirculating the hottest air near the ceiling through the rest of the room), you can save 10 per cent on heating in the winter. Heating costs for the winter in 2007 were $928 US on average. Saving 10 per cent on heating costs translates to $92.80, with a new cost of $835.20.

2 Make the switch to fluorescent light bulbs. If you use a 75-watt soft white normal bulb, you would get 121 hours of light for $1. An 18-watt fluorescent light bulb will net you 505 hours of light for $1. For the average household using 600 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, roughly 10 per cent of that electricity is lighting. With 60 kWh spent on light bulbs, 75-watt normal bulbs are costing you $4.50/month and 18-watt fluorescent bulbs only cost you $1.08/month, for a savings of $3.42/month.

3 Save on drinking water — buy a water filter. Each person drinks roughly 115 litres of bottled water per year. One case of 24 half-litre bottles of water costs an average of $7 US. At 115 litres per person, that's almost 10 cases of water!

4 Unplug appliances when they aren't in use. You would be surprised how many electrical appliances can be easily unplugged once you're done using them. Things like colour TVs (313 watts), desktop computers (318 watts), microwaves (209 watts), or coffee makers (116 watts) are convenient enough to unplug. Even small things such as stereo systems and laptops (81 and 90 watts, respectively) can be unplugged to save on your utility bill. Spaceheating systems, while more inconvenient to unplug than a TV, guzzle an enormous 3,524 watts.

5 Air dry dishes instead of using drying cycles. The drying setting on a dishwasher sucks up as much as 512 watts. The average household uses its dishwasher roughly four times a week, so that's 2,048 watts, or 8,192 watts per month. At a rate of $0.11/kWh, you would save $0.90 per month per month air drying your dishes instead of using the drying setting on the dishwasher.

Students not staying in Kingston?
Kingston's mayor says the majority of Queen's University students surveyed by the city are pleased with their experience as Kingston citizens. However, a forthcoming Queen's study found that 78 per cent of students and alumni surveyed had not considered Kingston for post-graduate employment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

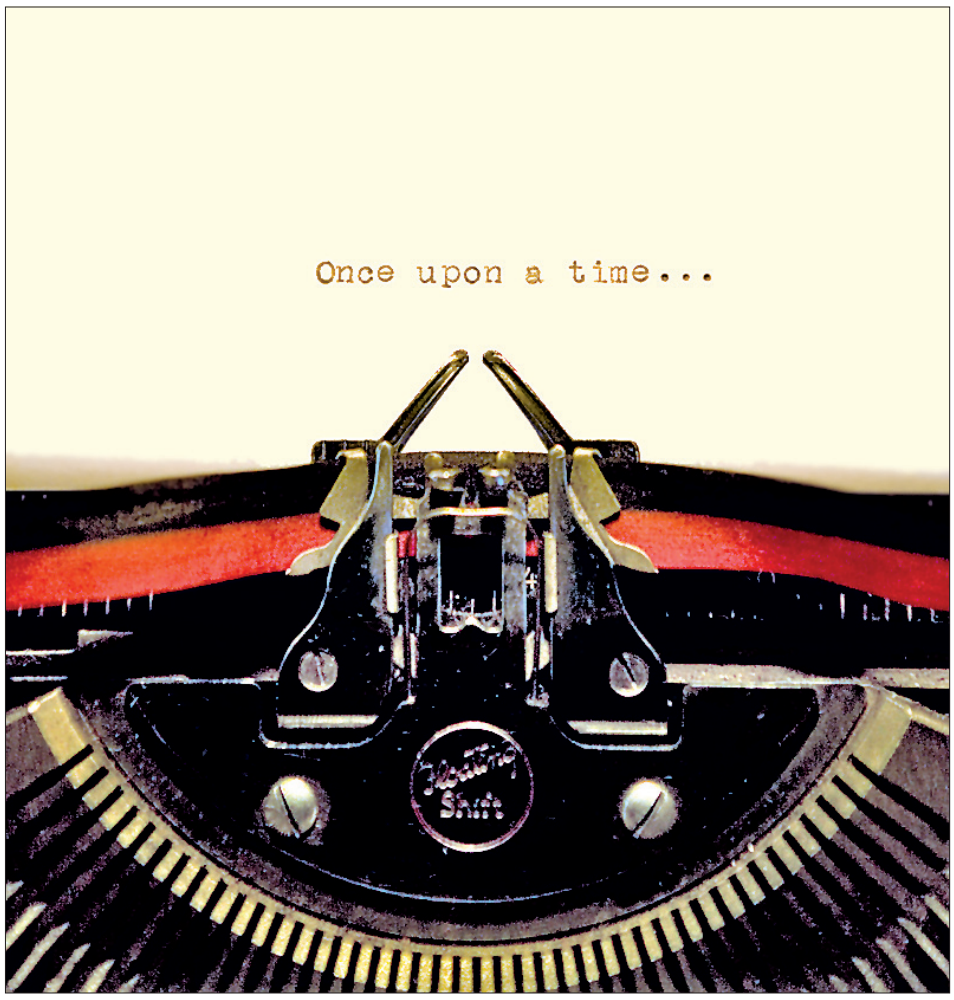
Gender gap on the rise

According to a new report, women will account for an average of 59 per cent of post-secondary education (PSE) students across the developed world by 2025. In Canada, there could be almost twice as many female students as male. In 2005, 58 per cent of PSE students in Canada were female, and that number is expected to rise to 64 per cent by 2025. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Will write for food...

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada



The strange, interesting and frequently terrifying life of a freelance writer is survived best by often answering "yes" to a great many questions, Metro writer Rafael Brusilow writes.

Go ahead and enjoy your turkey this holiday season, I'll stick to my freelancer's feast: Canned sardines and cold rice.

While I wish I was completely joking, as long as I say those words with a straight face people seem to believe me.

That's because I write freelance for a living. Yes, people pay me to write things, sometimes even with actual money.

It's a strange, interesting and frequently terrifying life that is survived best by often answering "yes" to a great many questions. For example:

"Have you ever produced an 80-page instructional manual?"

"Yes" (a lie).

"Can you?"

"Yes" (a partial lie).

As a freelancer I've reported the news, churned out press releases, investigated corporate types about public lies, slaved over feature stories and stressed over whether to use the phrase "sun-soaked beaches" for the umpteenth time in travel agency advertisements.

If you remember an ad referring to a particular energy bar as "a decadent slice of chocolate heaven" you can thank me for that one too.

The term "freelancer" was born in the Middle Ages, when enterprising individuals more interested in adventure than a life of sanity, safety or stability would pick up their lances and get paid to fight.

These mercenaries were, quite literally, "free lancers" never tied down to any single employer, making their living doing other people's dirty work. Due to the hazardous nature of the lifestyle, a common assumption was that freelancers generally knew what the heck they were doing, since otherwise they'd probably already be dead.

The other common assumption was that freelancers were unscrupulous, disloyal vultures who sold themselves to the highest bidder for even the slightest sliver of profit.

That's clearly absurd; I always look for the largest possible sliver of profit, and I just bought some scruples yesterday. They were on sale.

Joking aside, most freelancers these days have learned to nurture a strong spirit of entrepreneurialism alongside our love for writing.

SOME OTHER THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FREELANCERS:

- Our life is not a perpetual vacation. In fact, a "vacation" usually just means a time during which we don't get paid because we don't work.
- No, we will not do your writing for free just "to get published," that's called an internship, not a job.
- No, we do not all wish we had "real" jobs, so please get to know us a little better before offering advice on how to find a dreary desk-job position.

Last but not least, the vast majority of us do absolutely love the joy of writing, the thrill of the creative process and the incomparable feeling of accomplishment which follows a completed work.

But don't hold it against us if we take a few questionable gigs along the way — after all, while you're enjoying your decadent slice of chocolate heaven this holiday season, we're probably still trying to pay for the last one!

Something else to note...

- Telling a freelancer how you've "always wanted to write" and asking us what stories to pitch and who to pitch them to is exactly as annoying as asking a baker to give you his recipes and retail contacts so you can steal all his business. Earn our trust first, please.

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Greater investment in social media marketing in 2009
According to a new survey of Canadian marketers, 82 per cent plan to spend as much or more on social media in 2009 than they did this year. Seventy-eight per cent said senior management supports greater investment in social media. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Board meeting, or family dinner?

Along with joy, holidays can also bring along some less-than-savoury pitfalls

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

The holidays are supposed to be fun but sometimes the stress of it all can leave you feeling decidedly less-than-festive.

What should be a well-earned break from work can often turn into an endless stream of responsibilities, obligations and tense dinners not far removed from the pressures of the boardroom.

Stress and wellness specialist Beverly Beuermann-King says the problem is usually rooted in trying to accomplish too many things at a time of year when deadlines and obligations are already the norm.

"There's more to do in your business and personal lives and there are more expectations. In trying to make everything perfect we try to do way more than there's time to do," Beuermann-King said.

She suggests taking a step back and focusing on what Christmas is supposed to be about.

"Get back to the basics — what are the holidays about for you? If they're about connections, spend as much time connecting with the people you love instead of spending 10 hours in the kitchen. If they're about relaxation, make sure the kind of things you do let you get your energy back," Beuermann-King said.

"There's more to do in your business and personal lives and there are more expectations. In trying to make everything perfect we try to do way more than there's time to do."
Stress and wellness specialist Beverly Beuermann-King

The frequent work crunch that hits right before and just after the holiday break can be a frustrating tradition as well, but career coach Jeff Baldock says a little planning can go a long way to easing the load. He recommends setting out what projects you will work on when you get back and letting your manager know — he or she will be much less likely to hassle you before or after the New Year if they know you've got things well in hand.

"This is a good time of year to recap with your manager," Baldock said.

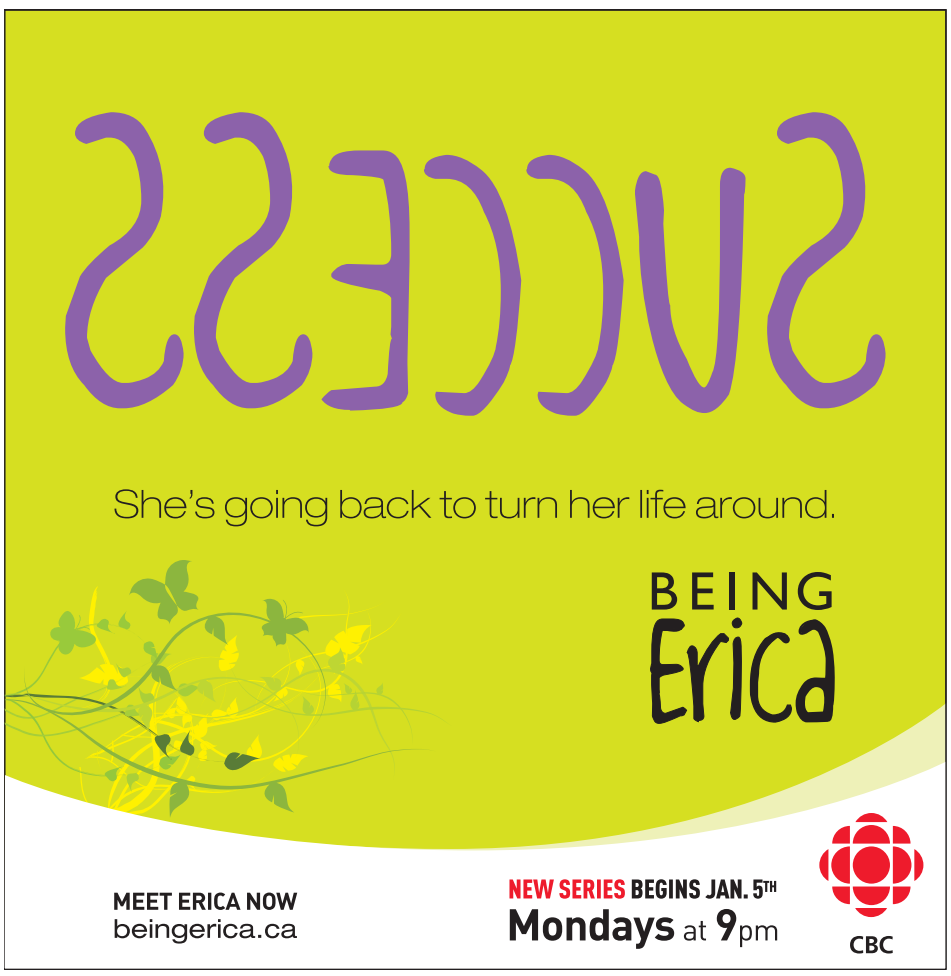
As for those potentially painful reunions with an uncle who gets on your nerves or an in-law who seldom bothers to hide his or her loathing for you at the dinner table, Beuermann-King says it often comes with the territory.

"Family pushes our buttons a lot quicker than in the boardroom — there's a lot more history there," she said.

She suggests making a conscious effort to put out proverbial fires before they start by being supportive and accommodating. If all else fails, the oldest trick in the book still works: Make an excuse to show up at the last minute and leave as soon as possible after dinner is done.

Your health is crucial to keeping stress levels low so lay off the spiked eggnog, try not to over-eat and make sure to still get plenty of rest.

"Avoid things like too much alcohol or too much caffeine and get some sleep," Baldock said.



Career Finder

To advertise, call Josie McKenzie 416-443-4364

Making money off YouTube video
Ever since YouTube introduced a partner program last year in which individual users and media companies split advertising revenue with the video-sharing site, hundreds of partners have been making thousands of dollars a month. METRO NEWS SERVICES

It's all about the presentation

OddJobs

When you're out shopping, your eyes pick out things on your list, the shapes and colours you like, and the sale tags.

Leslie Groves, a 33-year-old retail consultant — and gift-wrapping expert — from Brantford, Ont., sees a lot more. She's spent her entire professional life in stores and she knows how to transform the dingiest shop into something special, the most useless piece of junk into a display prop and the simplest gift into a showpiece when wrapped.

Last holiday season, she spent an entire day at Toronto's Holt Renfrew, wrapping gifts. She also runs a wrapping seminar at gift shows. She shows people how to choose the right colours, make 20 different kinds of bows, and cost out their materials.

She's also a whiz at inventing props for retail displays. "I can walk through the plumbing department at a hardware store and come up with some great ideas," she says. Using her home workshop, she converts discarded industrial wooden spools into lightweight display tables and wooden skids into little white picket fences.

Groves first started working in retail at age 13 — she cleaned the buckets in a flower shop. Eventually, she started arranging and got good enough to win awards for her designs.

She studied retailing at Humber College and, in 1998, she was hired by Humber to help it revamp its retail program. That project really reinforced a simple but important idea to her: "It's all based on the elements of design, it's just how you apply it," she says.

But many stores she saw at the time were too cluttered and their displays had no theme and a poor use of colour. But a lot of smaller retailers had no one to tell them this.

So in 1999, she launched Interior Elements as a home-based business, and got hired to do everything from revamp stores visually to training staff on point-of-sale systems and gift-wrapping.

Between doing demonstrations at gift shows, working in stores herself, running training programs, consulting with business owners and powering up her mitre saw, no two days are ever the same for Groves.

And while the experts say times will be tough for retail in the coming year, Groves thinks there will be plenty for her to do. "People are scaling down, and they need to be more effective with their visuals, and they'll need help with that," she says. "And there are still lots of businesses opening up."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Retail consultant/gift wrapping expert
Salary: As much or as little as you want, depending on how hard you work
Education/training: Experience in retail and a college diploma in retail merchandising
Best Part of the Job: "Everyone has a different niche, and they share what they know with me. I combine that with what I know and pass it on to my next client."
Worst Part of the Job: "Sometimes I'm too busy and I don't get to be at home with my daughter."

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Holders of bogus degrees caught

Following up on its investigation into a fake degree scam, the Toronto Star reported in last Saturday's issue on a recent probe uncovering at least 220 Canadians — including a manager in the registrar's office at Algonquin College — with bogus academic credentials. METRO NEWS SERVICES

College & University 2009

Going beyond language

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

When Adam Yang had his annual performance review at TD Securities one year ago, his superior asked him if he intended to pursue a leadership position.

"Last year, I told him, 'No. I don't know what I want to do. I'm not sure,'" remembers Yang, the information technology worker who moved to Toronto from Hong Kong 12 years ago, PhD in hand.

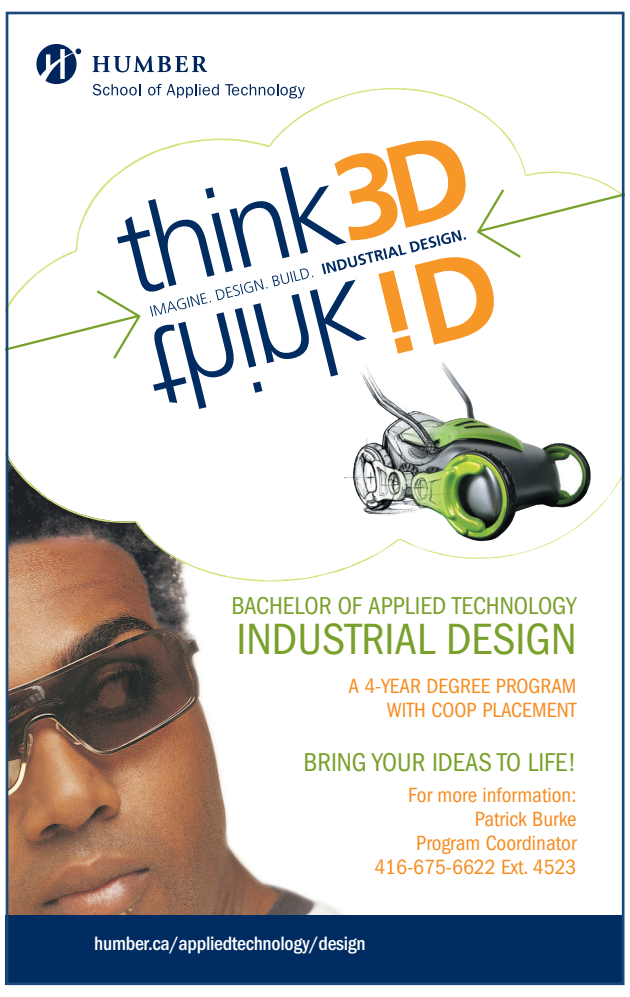
But Yang is up for review again. And this time, he'll be singing a different tune. "I will tell him directly that I really want to take on more of a leadership role," he says with confidence.

Yang says his newfound self-assuredness is a result of his employer's suggestion to enrol in the Professional Communications for Employment (PCE) program at The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University. The program aims to improve the communication skills of internationally educated professionals (IEPs) who are struggling with barriers of language and culture in the workplace.

Before entering the program, Yang accepted a leadership position, which required him to liaise with and manage 15 subordinates. But the promotion he initially invited turned into a very stressful situation for Yang, who found he didn't possess the appropriate skill sets to lead others.

Despite the credentials and experience Yang held, his broken English held him back from communicating effectively. But he says the language barrier was more than just confusing words of a sentence.

Adam Yang attended the Professional Communications for Employment (PCE) program at The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education at Ryerson University.



"What you really have to do is to be able to communicate."
Adam Yang

"It's more the way you express yourself. What you really have to do is to be able to communicate with others. You need to build a bridge between yourself and other people," says Yang. "In the program, when we sit down as a team, people watch you and say what they think you can do better. That really helped me a lot."

Added to role-playing and simulations, it's such experiential modes of instruction PCE program manager Nava Israel says makes the course so unique.

"People feel they are coming to a safe environment which simulates the workplace where they can make mistakes, learn from them, try again and improve, and then apply it in the workplace," she says.

An immigrant herself, Israel understands the pains of transition new Canadians face in the workplace. Beyond language, she says an implicit component of communication is mastering soft skills like the ability to negotiate, present, work in a team and counsel, which she says the program evaluates and improves.

"Language is like being able to use a brush and mix paints. Soft skills are like painting a masterpiece. You cannot paint a masterpiece unless you can master using a brush and mixing paint."

Telus connects refugees across the globe

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Telus spread a little holiday cheer to ESL students in December, footing the bill for more than 100 students from Toronto to Burnaby to call home to Afghanistan, South Korea, Uzbekistan and other countries. Many of the students are refugees and couldn't normally afford the expensive calls to war-hit countries like Haiti and Somalia.

Arnold Munoko managed to reach his uncle in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. His family was disrupted by Africa's five-year "world war," which engulfed the region until 2003, and by the civil war raging in the east today.

"We keep in touch (as much as we can), to know if they are alive, because there, it is terrible," he said from Edmonton, where he is studying at NorQuest College.

Munoko added he was relieved to hear his family is well. He left the DRC six years ago, and hasn't seen his family since. He's been in Canada for a year.

"Christmas in Canada is good," he said with a laugh.

Janice Moore from NorQuest College said the "mini UN" of 25 students that gathered at her college to call home were connected to giant cities and tiny villages across the globe.

"It's a great little program. A lot of times, the students can't afford (to call their home countries) ... if that few extra dollars can go to make sure rent is covered, rather than the luxury of a phone call."
Chris Gerritsen

"So many of them are disconnected from their families, so to take some time out of their day to call home was wonderful," she said.

Many of the students came to Canada as refugees and haven't seen their families in years, Moore said. Some didn't even know where their families were and had to make several calls to track them down. A caller to Kenya had to wait while locals searched the village to find her mother.

One Eritrean woman had to leave her three children in the east African country to come to Edmonton. "She was talking to her kids that day. It can be very emotional," Moore said.

Last year, a student from Lebanon called home during the war in that country. "There was no ringing, there's nothing, so she thought, if the phone's dead, does that mean the home has been bombed?" Moore recounted. The woman finally managed to reach her family. "She just burst into tears when she found out they were alive."

Chris Gerritsen of Telus said the company was happy to do what they do best: Connect people.

"It's a great little program," he said. "A lot of times, the students can't afford it … if that few extra dollars can go to make sure rent is covered, rather than the luxury of a phone call."

Employee retention still a big concern

EMPLOYMENT A recent survey suggests today's employers are most worried about hanging on to good employees and bringing in new ones, even in the current economy. When asked about their greatest staffing concern, nearly four out of 10 (39 per cent) senior executives interviewed cited employee retention, while 22 per cent said recruitment. Productivity and employee morale were each named by 17 per cent of respondents.

The survey was developed by Robert Half International, the world's first and largest staffing services firm specializing in accounting and finance. It was conducted by an independent research firm.

EXECUTIVES WERE ASKED, "WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST STAFFING CONCERN?" THEIR RESPONSES:

- Retention 39 per cent;
- Recruitment 22 per cent;
- Productivity 17 per cent;
- Staff morale 17 per cent.

"Many firms are operating with lean teams in which every staff member plays a key role in the business, making retention a greater concern," said Max Messmer, chairman and CEO of Robert Half International. "Companies that lose top performers may not only experience declines in productivity but also incur significant costs in replacing these professionals."

Messmer added that within a few specialties, recruiting in-demand skills remains a challenge. "There continues to be a shortage of skilled job candidates for positions such as credit and collections specialists and staff and senior accountants, and companies may not be able to offer generous perks and incentives to attract them."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

In brief

RESEARCHERS Recently, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation announced a $45-million investment under its Leaders Opportunity Fund to provide infrastructure to attract researchers to Canadian institutions. The funding for state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment at 44 universities will kick-start 251 research projects.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

PETA opts for Oprah
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has named Oprah Winfrey its Person of the Year. The group singled out the media mogul for using her "powerful voice to defend those without one." PEOPLE.COM

Entertainment

Chace's chance

Chace Crawford is adding another role to his resumé. The Gossip Girl heartthrob will star in singer Leona Lewis' video for her next single, I Will Be.

IMDB.COM

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Canadian Press names its Top 10 movies

The Top 10 films of 2008 as selected by writers and editors at The Canadian Press:

BEFORE TOMORROW This startling debut by Quebec filmmakers Madeline Piujuq Ivalu and Marie-Helene Cousineau tells the story of an Inuit woman and her grandson and is set against a desolate, frosty landscape in the 19th century.

THE CLASS (ENTRE LES MURS) A psychological power struggle between a teacher and his students in a tough Paris neighbourhood is portrayed with such veracity in this Cannes festival winner.

DOUBT Meryl Streep gives an electric performance as the indomitable principal, who becomes convinced that the local priest is sexually abusing an altar boy.

HUNGER British visual artist Steve McQueen delivers a cinematic slap to the face with this excruciating, yet strangely beautiful portrait of the 1981 hunger strike by Bobby Sands.

IT'S NOT ME, I SWEAR! (C'EST PAS MOI, JE LE JURE!) Ten-year-old Leon is fond of failed suicide attempts, vandalism, and breaking and entering. When his parents announce they are getting a divorce, Leon really starts to misbehave.

MAN ON WIRE Superficially it might seem like a crazy stunt, but a high-wire artist's 1974 crossing between the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center is revealed in this documentary as a thing of great esthetic beauty.

MILK Sean Penn continues to solidify his reputation with this unforgettable portrayal of Harvey Milk, who made history as an openly gay elected official, only to be assassinated less than a year after taking office.

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE This film about a Mumbai teenager poised to win an Indian version of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire has been gaining momentum as a likely best picture Oscar nominee.

WENDY AND LUCY It couldn't be a more simple premise — down-on-her-luck young woman loses dog, then searches for dog — but Michelle Williams imbues this quiet gem with so much more.

THE WRESTLER By now you've probably heard about Rourke's astonishing physical appearance, but this tale of a grappler has to be seen to be believed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bedtime Stories a dream for Gunn

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Toronto-born producer Andrew Gunn has managed to carve a nice little niche for himself in Hollywood.

He founded Gunn Films with Walt Disney Studios in 2000 and has made a career out of producing live action family films like Sky High and Freaky Friday that appeal to a wider audience than most pre-school centric Disney fare.

His latest project brings Adam Sandler to Disney for Bedtime Stories, in which Sandler plays a man who invents fantasy stories for his niece and nephew only to see some elements of the stories come to life.

Sandler is normally involved in creating his screenplays, but this was one of the rare instances in which the studio brought the project to him.

"We did about three or four drafts of the script and hired the director," says Gunn. "Then it came down to that short list of comedic actors that we could go out to. Everybody thought that Adam could be great so we sent it to him and were surprised to find out that he was into it. I think now that he's a dad he wanted to do something for his kids."

Of course once Sandler came on board he immediately went out of his way to make the movie his own.

"Adam brought in [screenwriter] Tim Hirlihy who he's known since the old days at SNL and they did a couple passes on the script," said Gunn. "It was Adam and Tim who thought to make each story different and set one in Rome, one in the wild west, one in outerspace and that sort of thing. There are actor/producers who aren't normally that involved, but Adam is intimately involved in every aspect of the movie from the casting to the music. He knows what he does very well and at a certain point you just have to trust in him and let him work."

The result is a film that plays to children, but also has Sandler distinct comedic tone and a variety of his regular cast members. One surprising casting choice came in the form of controversial comedian Russell Brand, who fit into the family film quite well.

"Russell has the ability to even take a line without a joke in it and make it funny. There's nothing funnier than seeing him next to two nine year old kids. There's something very wrong with that picture."

Bedtime Stories hits theatres on Christmas Day.

Adam Sandler stars in the family film Bedtime Stories.

Movie **feature**

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **Yes Man** $18.2 million US
2. **Seven Pounds** $16 million
3. **The Tale of Despereaux** $10.5 million
4. **The Day the Earth Stood Still** $10.2 million
5. **Four Christmases** $7.7 million
6. **Twilight** $5.2 million
7. **Bolt** $4.3 million
8. **Slumdog Millionaire** $3.2 million
9. **Australia** $2.3 million
10. **Quantum of Solace** $2.2 million

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Miller to direct Buck Rogers

Comic book legend turned film writer and director Frank Miller will make a big screen version of Buck Rogers. Worst Previews reports that Miller will also write a new version of the comic serial. IMDB.COM

Hilton's bedroom ransacked in burglary

INVESTIGATION Los Angeles police were continuing their investigating yesterday into a burglary at Paris Hilton's home that they say left her bedroom ransacked and about $2 million US in jewelry missing.

Los Angeles police officer Julianne Sohn said the break-in occurred around 5 a.m. Friday at Hilton's home in the Sherman Oaks area of Los Angeles.

Sohn said detectives reported that a man wearing a hooded sweat shirt and gloves broke in through the home's front door and ransacked Hilton's bedroom.

Paris Hilton

Hilton was not at home at the time. She had been photographed the previous night at several L.A. nightspots.

Hilton's publicist, Elliot Mintz, said he had no information to release Friday afternoon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eva Mendes reveals her Spirit

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

If her role in The Spirit is any indication, Eva Mendes must've really liked playing dress-up as a little girl. Somehow though, I don't think it was to play the part of a princess.

"The fun part for me was definitely putting on the glamour and wearing the clothes," claimed the Cuban-American beauty recently while promoting the film. "(But) the core of this woman was pain."

Portraying sexy thief Sand Saref in The Spirit took more than just being glamorous. Mendes (Ghost Rider, Hitch) cites her character's origin, pointing out that Saref may have an unparalleled passion for diamonds, but like the jewel itself, her character has a rocky past.

"Once I found that foundation, then it made me realize where she was coming from so I could go big and I could be as ridiculous as I wanted to be whether it was in hairstyle or action or in wardrobe."

Based on a popular wartime comic strip by Will Eisner, The Spirit is not only about a powerful masked crime-fighter but he's surrounded by a company of irresistibly strong femme fatales.

As co-star Scarlett Johansson once put it, "Eisner was writing these great female characters at a time when people put women in a domesticated kind of box."

Eva Mendes stars as a thief in The Spirit.

"What I loved about this was just that my character was created in the 1940's so I had this real dame-broad kind of appeal," said Mendes. "She was just so over the top and fantastical and she has some of the best lines in the movie — 'Shut up and bleed' being one of my favorites."

While she definitely has some of the catchiest dialogue in the flick, she's also arguably its sexiest character.

In one eye-catching scene, she's able to avoid arrest when she drops her robe — shocking The Spirit and moviegoers with a revealing backside.

"The point is my character uses everything she has as a woman to get what she wants," admitted Mendes.

"If there were no brains behind the body I would have major qualms with it. This girl's kick ass in every way and she's such a smart dame that part of getting what she wants is turning up the sex."

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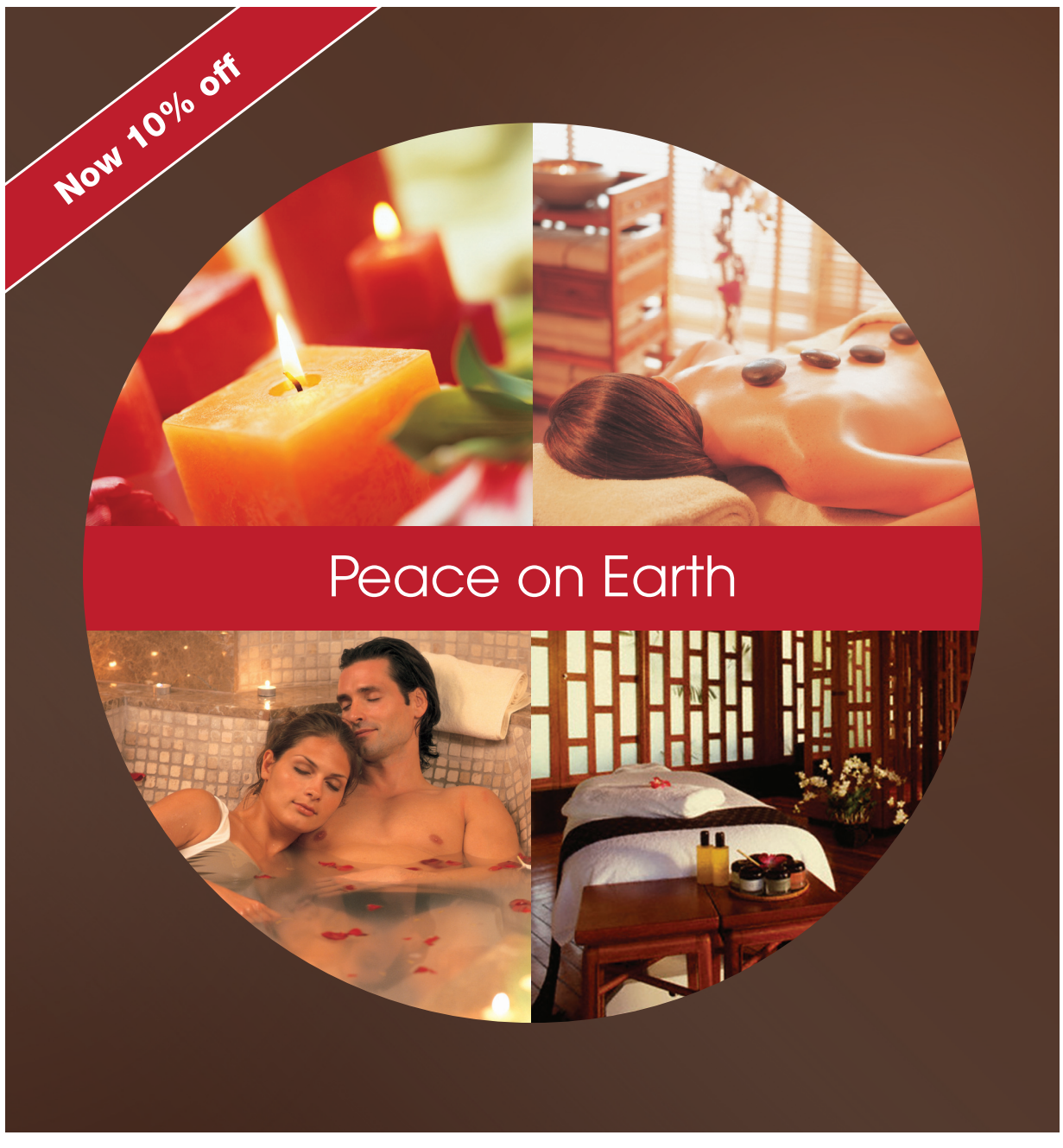

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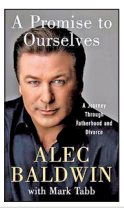
Baldwin a forgotten father

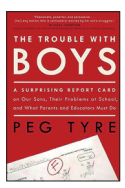
BookPicks



A Promise to **Ourselves**

Author: Alec Baldwin
Publisher: H.B. Fenn
Price: $27.95 (Hardcover)

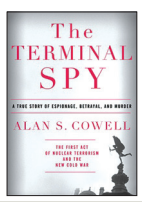
Comedic actor Alec Baldwin puts on his tragedy mask to tell his side of his recent divorce and custody battle in A Promise to Ourselves, his memoir on fatherhood. Baldwin aims to transcend tabloids and offer a personal account of the psychological, emotional and legal struggles he faced during his divorce from L.A. Confidential actress Kim Basinger in 2002. Using reminiscence about his ex-wife and expression of distress over the fight for their daughter Ireland, Baldwin bares all. Though at times heavy on details and introductions, the memoir still relays Baldwin's feelings and undisguised criticism of the American legal system.



The Trouble with **Boys**

Author: Peg Tyre
Publisher: Crown
Price: $27.95 (Hardcover)

Is it safe to conclude that boys will be boys? Not so, according to Pulitzer Prize winning New York journalist Peg Tyre. In her assessment, The Trouble with Boys, Tyre gives fellows a failing grade. She travels back as early as pre-school, pinpointing numerous problem areas in schools that contribute to the detriment of the developing male. From what effect a lack of male teachers has to why fewer men are enrolling in post-secondary studies, Tyre tries to make clear where we are going wrong and what can be done to save the state of boys.



The Terminal **Spy**

Author: Alan S. Cowell
Publisher: Doubleday Canada
Price: $32.00 (Hardcover)

British journalist and Pulitzer Prize nominee Alan S. Cowell walks through what he calls "the first act of nuclear terrorism" in his thorough account, The Terminal Spy: A True Story of Espionage, Betrayal and Murder. When subversive Russian writer Alexander Litvinenko was poisoned with radioactive polonium, Alan S. Cowell was there. He recalls his reporting on the case for the New York Times and international journalism to assemble Litvinenko's case and examine other plots to kill the dissident. By considering all the players, Cowell makes a case for what repercussions the crime may have.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

It ain't over yet

Glam rockers Kiss have shot down rumours the band is retiring, by confirming they will be recording a new album. "It's going to be very much a vintage, classic, '70s Kiss album," frontman Paul Stanley told Askmen.com. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Ex-GNR dummer ordered to rehab

MUSIC Former Guns N' Roses drummer Steven Adler is going to spend more time in rehab.

A court commissioner in Los Angeles agreed Friday to place Adler in a state-sanctioned drug rehabilitation program and keep Adler out of prison.

Adler's court appearance came a day after TV audiences watched him graduate from a drug-treatment program that is the focus of VH1's show Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew. Adler missed a court appearance last week but told the court on Friday that he had been in another rehab program that he completed just earlier in the day.

Los Angeles police arrested the rocker in July. He was charged with felony drug possession and a misdemeanour count of being under the influence of drugs. Adler will remain on probation while he tries to complete the state program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Katy 'do it yourself' Perry

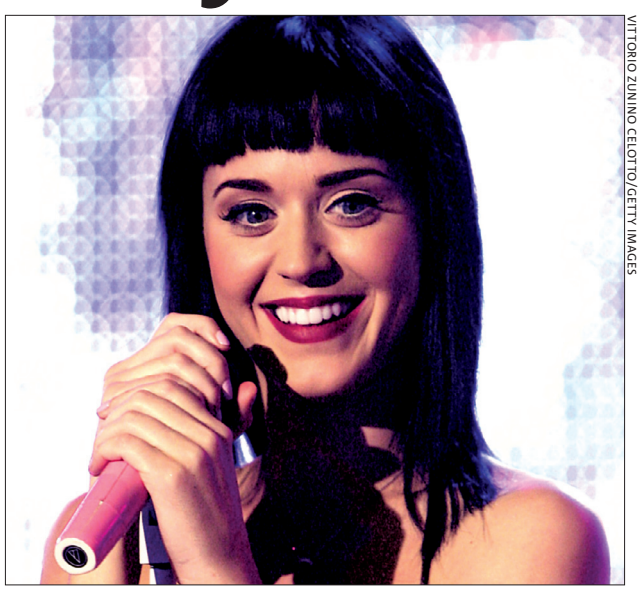
Don't get Katy Perry twisted.

She absolutely loves being pop's quirky poster girl, the wild child who doesn't censor herself and causes raised eyebrows with songs like Ur So Gay and I Kissed a Girl.

But for all her success over the last year, Perry is hoping that songs like her most recent No. 1, Hot n Cold, show she has more to offer than kitsch and controversy.

"It's my personality, which is up and down and sassy and cheeky," says Perry, who recently became a Grammy nominee. "You're gonna see me with all kinds of different things. Maybe you won't expect it, but that's what I like to do — keep people on their toes."

Offering the unexpected was a key factor in Perry becoming one of pop's breakout stars this year. While Ur So Gay — a taunting song to an ex-lover more enamoured with flatirons and skinny jeans than his ex-girlfriend — became an underground talker, it was her equally ear-catching song I Kissed a Girl, about girl-on-girl experimentation, that resonated with mainstream music fans, becoming a No. 1 summer smash.



VITTORIO ZUNINO CELOTTO/GETTY IMAGES

Katy Perry insists she has more to offer than kitsch.

"She's not scared to rattle some people's cages lyrically, and say some risque stuff," says singer-songwriter Butch Walker, who collaborated with Perry on some of the tracks on her debut album, One of the Boys.

"She brings a little bit of the underground, a little bit of the hipster and underground culture to the mainstream, and that's what sells her ... as different."

And that's what Perry hoped her role in pop music would be. The 24-year-old, who was raised by ministers and dabbled in Christian music before heading to Los Angeles as a 17-year-old aspiring artist, found most of pop's princesses to be manufactured and boring.

"I was a bit let down by maybe their personality or their delivery or their consistency," says Perry during an interview at her Capitol Records label offices. "They were so like careful with everything.

"Well, what's the point of being in pop or rock 'n' roll music if you're going to be a windup doll?" Perry says.

"Use your own wheels and bolts, even if they break, do it yourself."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New attack on music downloads

COURTS The group representing the U.S. recording industry said Friday it has abandoned its policy of suing people for sharing songs protected by copyright and will work with Internet service providers to cut abusers' access if they ignore repeated warnings.

The move ends a controversial program that saw the Recording Industry Association of America sue about 35,000 people since 2003 for swapping songs online. Virtually all of those hit with lawsuits settled, on average for around $3,500. The association's legal costs, in the meantime, exceeded the settlement money. The association said Friday it has agreed with several leading U.S. Internet service providers, without naming which ones, to notify alleged illegal file-sharers and cut service if they failed to stop.

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Newlywed Game gets news lease on life
The Game Show Network is moving forward with its revival of The Newlywed Game, ordering 40 half-hour episodes, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Bob Eubanks, shown, hosted the original version of the show. IMDB.COM

Garrett to face no charges

LEGAL Prosecutors say Brad Garrett was provoked into pushing a paparazzo and charges won't be pressed.

The Emmy-winning actor was shown pushing a man with a video camera and challenging him to a fight in a video posted last month on celebrity gossip site TMZ.com.

Brad Garrett

The photographer claimed Garrett broke his camera but continued to hold it up as if he was still shooting. The confrontation occurred outside a restaurant in West Hollywood. The former Everybody Loves Raymond actor, who more recently starred in the Fox sitcom 'Til Death, was not arrested.

A charge evaluation report released Friday by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office says the paparazzo used "hostile and derogatory language" to try to provoke a violent outburst. The report states that the 48-year-old Garrett pushing the photographer amounted to minimal contact and "the interests of justice" do not support pursuing a charge.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

FAMILY Angie Harmon and husband Jason Sehorn have welcomed their third daughter. Emery Hope Sehorn was born Thursday, said Harmon's publicist, Nicole Perna. The 36-year-old actress and 37-year-old former National Football League player were married in 2001 and have two daughters, five-year-old Finley and three-year-old Avery. Harmon's TV credits include Law & Order and and Women's Murder Club.

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My Network TV makes inroads

For the past three weeks, the upstart My Network TV has accomplished something that would have been considered unthinkable just two years ago.

The network, quickly cobbled together by a group of Fox-owned local stations after the 2006 merger of the WB and UPN into the new CW left abandoned stations with nothing to put on the air, has averaged more prime-time viewers than the CW.

My Network TV is the only one of the six English-speaking broadcast networks to grow this season. Its average of 1.76 million viewers each night is up 750,000 from last season, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Given an opportunity to gloat, My Network TV president Greg Meidel plays it cool.

"Do we get excited about beating the CW three weeks in a row? Sure," said Meidel. "I'd rather win than have a tie."

Professional wrestling is the turnaround's chief driver. The CW used to air World Wrestling Entertainment matches but let them go because wrestling clashed with its strategy of appealing primarily to the young women who obsess over Gossip Girls. My Network picked it up and the Friday night package is the network's most popular program of the week.

"We want to provide programming that's entertaining, that's fun to watch and easy to join in progress."
My Network TV president Greg Meidel

Even discounting the wrestling, My Network TV is up. Its executives abandoned the network's initial programming strategy — prime-time, English-language telenovelas — in favour of movies and nonfiction programming.

"We want to provide programming that's entertaining, that's fun to watch and easy to join in progress," Meidel said.

Make no mistake, My Network would like you to set aside time for its shows. But that's tough for a new network, so it favours material like Jail, a series from the producer of COPS that follows a person in the first few days of incarceration, and The World's Funniest Moments, a collection of YouTube-like videos hosted by Arsenio Hall.

They're designed to catch the eye of someone idly surfing through the channels. For that reason, My Network TV has avoided dating games or competition shows that stretch over several episodes, fearing viewers won't make the commitment, Meidel said.

The network also happened upon a new niche of shows related to magic. Its Breaking the Magicians Code has done well, and will soon be joined by Masters of Illusion, where tricks presumably not outed by the previous show are performed. The network has movie nights, and a week ago tied for its biggest audience ever with the holiday evergreen Home Alone.

My Network TV's success shows that with all the new media, there's still power in traditional broadcast television distribution, said John Rash, an analyst for the ad buying firm Campbell Mithun.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady gowns to go on display

FASHION Gowns worn by first ladies during the past 100 years are returning to public view in a revamped gallery at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit, First Ladies at the Smithsonian, opens Friday. The dresses include Grace Coolidge's flapper-style evening dress and Eleanor Roosevelt's pink gown from the 1945 inauguration reception.

One of the oldest gowns in the collection, Helen Taft's 1909 white-silk chiffon inaugural gown, will also be displayed.

The gowns had been on display before the museum underwent a $85 million US facelift. The museum reopened a month ago.

Museum director Brent Glass says the first ladies exhibit dates back to 1914. It was the first Smithsonian exhibit to prominently feature women.

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	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Bouncers	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Pooh	Stuart McLean	The Border (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Holiday Moments: Home Video		Rita Rocks	Friends	A World of Difference		News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	Corner Gas	Hollywood	Shrek the Halls	Corner Gas	*Would Be Kings* (2008, Crime Drama) (DVS)				News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	Tube Tales	TV Made, Do It	Momma's Boys (N)				Inside Hollywood		News (N)
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	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	2008: Today Looks Back		Momma's Boys (N)				News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Shrek the Halls	*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* ★★★ (2005, Fantasy) Johnny Depp.					News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Women of Karaoun		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	House "Not Cancer"		Prison Break (HDTV) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow		Life a House Built		Christmas at Luther		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		One Tree Hill (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Prince William & Harry		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	CNBC Reports (HDTV)				American Greed		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	Darts World Premier League.				Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30 TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown		NFL Football Green Bay Packers at Chicago Bears. From Soldier Field in Chicago.					
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Man Tracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	81 SC	Pinks	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25 YTV	A Miser Brothers' Christmas		Year Without a Santa Claus		*Jack Frost* ★★ (1998, Fantasy) Michael Keaton, Kelly Preston.				Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Foster-Claus	6teen (DVS)		The Side Show Christmas		Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Friends	Will & Grace	Confidential	Maxed Out	*The Road to Christmas* (2006, Comedy) Jennifer Grey.				Maxed Out
	570	580	29 MM	Meet Barkers	Meet Barkers	MuchNews: Misses, Kisses		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	50 Cent: Money and Power		50 Cent-Money
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Intervention "Derek"		Intervention "Nicole" (N)		Runaway	Manhunters	Manhunters
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Se Forte Maestro		Distretto Di Polizia		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	Scott Baio, 45	Revival	Revival	Revival	Story Of Ozzy Osborne.		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget
	575	583	38 CMT	*The Sons of Mistletoe* (2001, Drama) Roma Downey.				Tara Oram's Christmas Carol		Donner Down	The Gift	Jason McCoy
	616	521	39 SHO	*The Christmas Choir* (2008, Drama) Jason Gedrick.				Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl
	620	523	40 BVO	Desperate Housewives		Christmas at the Concert Hall		Pater Noster	6 Possibilities	Dance Atlantic	Dance With Me	Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Deception"		Battle 360		Underworld Histories		NCIS "Deception"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham's Very Special Christmas Special		
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	My First Place	Home to Stay	Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Forces of Nature* ★★ (1999, Romance-Comedy), Ben Affleck				Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Soul Plane* ★★ (2004, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Tom Arnold.				Keyshia Cole	Keyshia Cole	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50 SPC	Lost "Par Avion"		Star Trek		The Dresden Files		Eureka		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	The Hills	After Show	The Hills (Live)				The Hills	The Hills Live After Show	
	618	524	54 TROP	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men		What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24
	603	561	56 FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Eyes Down	May to Dec	*A Holiday for Love* ★★ (1996, Drama) Melissa Gilbert.				Celtic Angels
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	Corner Gas	Relative Madness (N)		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Annabelle	Nght Grdn	Bob the Builder: Snowed		Wonder Pets	Backyardigans	A Very Fairy Christmas		Franklin
	115	711	101 TVA	Du talent	*Walk the Line* ★★★ (2005, Biographie) Joaquin Phoenix, Ginnifer Goodwin.					TVA 22 heures	(10:45) *Trois jours* (2001)	
	126	730	102 RDI	RDI en direct	Chine	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Truth, Duty, Valour		Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	Sanctuary "Instinct"		Stargate Atlantis		Brotherhood		Brotherhood (N)		*Love Bleeding*
	305	612	306 PIX	*An Affair to Remember* ★★★ (1957, Romance)				*The Usual Suspects* ★★★ (1995, Suspense)				*Henry & June*

critics' corner

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
If you're like us and appreciate young Freddie Highmore, grab some popcorn. He stars as Charlie, a poor boy who wins a trip to see the inside of a mysterious candymaker's — played by Johnny Depp — factory. If you saw the 1971 version, you'll be happy to know no chickens were beheaded in this 2005 remake. 8:30 PM on ABC

A Miser Brothers' Christmas
Fans of the classic special "The Year Without a Santa Claus" will remember the Heat Miser and Snow Miser. In this new animated special, they get to be the good guys when the North Wind sabotages Santa's sleigh, leaving him laid up. 7 PM on YTV

The Big Bang Theory
Leonard and Penny's first date doesn't go well, and Penny shares her frustration with a reluctant Sheldon, and a secret comes out that could nip the relationship in the bud. Sara Gilbert becomes a regular cast member, playing Leonard's gal pal Leslie Winkle, in "The Bad Fish Paradigm." 8 PM on CBS

Better late than never

Jessica Alba and her husband of seven months, Cash Warren, threw a long-overdue wedding reception on the weekend at their Beverly Hills home, according to usmagazine.com. The couple married last May and has a 6-month-old daughter. **EONLINE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Madonna ready to adopt again?

CHILDREN Madonna is reportedly moving ahead with plans to adopt another child from Malawi.

According to Star magazine, the singer is reportedly heading to the African nation — with new pal Alex Rodriguez in tow — to retrieve now 4-year-old girl Mercy James, even though Malawian adoption suggested that the singer's divorce from director Guy Ritchie would make the planned adoption impossible.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan: Please save Sam's Facebook

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan is upset that her rumoured girlfriend Samantha Ronson's Facebook profile was deleted, much like Lohan's was recently.

To remedy the situation, the Mean Girls actress took to her MySpace blog of all places to get the word out.

"Please put hers back exactly the way it was as you guys at Facebook did for mine," Lohan wrote.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Clay expecting second child

CHILDREN Former American Idol star Clay Aiken is expecting another child.

Aiken's friend, music producer Jaymes Parker, who acted as a surrogate for Aiken's first child, 4-month-old Parker, is pregnant again and is due in August 2009, according to Babble.com.

Sources said that Aiken and Parker wanted to give their son a younger sibling as soon as possible

METRO NEWS SERVICES

'Lonely' Nicole finds love with hubby

MARRIAGE Nicole Kidman was a "lonely" woman when she met Keith Urban, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 41-year-old actress — who gave birth to Sunday Rose, her first child with husband Keith, in July — was tired of being unlucky in love before she was introduced to country singer Keith.

Nicole, who is divorced from Tom Cruise, said: "My husband Keith is the most important person in my life, and I am for him. We were two lonely people who met at a time when we could open ourselves up to each other.

"We were a mixture of brave and frightened. Since getting married, I have passed up a lot of projects. I don't want to be away from the person I love. Home is in my husband's arms."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tomei bares all for stripper role

ACTING Marisa Tomei has done her fair share of nude scenes, but even she was somewhat wary of dancing around in a G-string — and nothing else — in her role as a stripper opposite Mickey Rourke, in The Wrestler, people.com reports

"The script called for certain points where (Rourke's character has to put money in my G-string, so I definitely had to be wearing a G-string — I couldn't be wearing boy shorts," the Oscar winner, 44, confesses to Premiere.

"And I didn't really want to be topless in every single dance number ... but there were certain things called for in the plot, and then I wanted to feel comfortable as her and I wanted it to be flattering."

So how did Tomei get into character? Research.

"I talked to a bunch of different girls and a bunch of different dancers. We just went out, had some drinks, went to a bunch of clubs, watched a lot of dances, got some dances," she says.

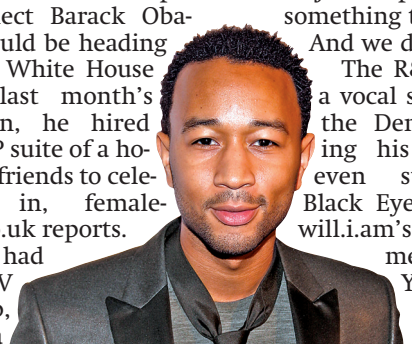
"It's like anything, any subculture. You get in there, and it's all individuals. And the dancing itself is not tawdry to the dancer and there's a lot more complexity there than you'd think."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Legend an Obamaniac

POLITICS Singer John Legend was so confident president-elect Barack Obama would be heading to the White House after last month's election, he hired the VIP suite of a hotel for friends to celebrate in, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"We had the TV set up, had a bunch of drinks set up. We were just hoping we had something to celebrate. And we did," he says.



The R&B star was a vocal supporter of the Democrat during his campaign, even starring in Black Eyed Peas star will.i.am's endorsement video Yes We Can.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Vaughn to ring in 2009 with a ring?

RELATIONSHIP Looks like Vince Vaughn could welcome in 2009 with a wife-to-be, msn.com is reporting.

According to In Touch magazine, the funnyman, 38, is planning to pop the question to squeeze Kyla Weber, a Canadian real estate agent, over New Year's.

A pal of the actor's tells the mag he's already selected a four-carat-plus engagement ring with an estimated price tag of $125,000 US. "Vince is ready to get married and has been for a while," says the buddy. "He wants to start a family."

Vaughn confirms he's off the market but, perhaps having learned a thing or two from his tabloid-bait, wedding rumour-crammed romance with Jennifer Aniston, offers few details. "I don't talk much about private matters," he informs USA Today. "But I am in a very happy, serious, committed relationship."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Robbie would ruin new Take That: Lily

PEOPLE Lily Allen thinks Take That would be "ruined" if Robbie Williams rejoined the group, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

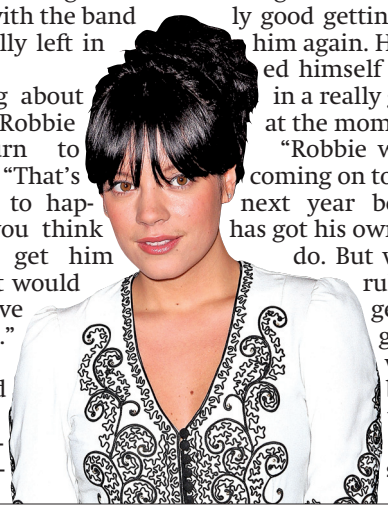
The singer — who has revealed she approached the British group to record a track with her — will be furious if the Angels star is reunited with the band he originally left in 1995.

Speaking about rumours Robbie will return to Take That: "That's not going to happen. Do you think they will get him back? That would ruin it. I love Take That."

The band's lead singer Gary Barlow recently revealed the group would consider allowing Robbie to return, after the reclusive star expressed a desire to work with them again.

Gary said: "We have been having great fun with Robbie and we have been talking a lot. It's been really good getting to know him again. He has sorted himself out and is in a really good place at the moment.

"Robbie will not be coming on tour with us next year because he has got his own things to do. But we are not ruling out getting together with him beyond that."

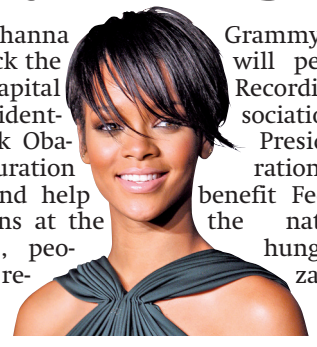


METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna to perform for charity at inauguration

POLITICS Rihanna plans to rock the nation's capital on president-elect Barack Obama's Inauguration Night — and help feed millions at the same time, people.com reports.

The Grammy winner, 20, will perform for the Recording Industry Association of America's Presidential Inauguration Charity Ball, to benefit Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief organization.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Adoption an option if infertile: Hough

PEOPLE Country singer Julianne Hough isn't fazed by the possibility she may be infertile after her recent bout of endometriosis — insisting she'd adopt if she can't have children of her own, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The star, also a professional on Dancing with the Stars, was hospitalized during the current season of the TV talent show, and doctors discovered a growth outside her womb.

Specialists insist she should still be able to have kids, but she is happy to find an alternative if the condition prevents her from conceiving.

She says, "The doctor said I should be okay. But if I was unable to conceive, I'd adopt."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

All Angel wants for Christmas ...

RELATIONSHIP Though he's got his own TV program and Las Vegas show, Criss Angel is still proudest about having a bunny — a Playboy bunny, people.com reports

The illusionist and his girlfriend, Girls Next Door star Holly Madison, smooched and snuggled together Friday night as they celebrated their joint birthdays at Las Vegas' LAX Nightclub.

"I don't want anything for Christmas," Angel, 41, told People. "I just want Holly, love, health and happiness, and I have all of those things."

As for his birthday request, he said, "I'm hoping Holly will just put a bow in her head and that will be my present."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Eastgate Square
Fairview Mall
Fairview Park Mall
Georgian Mall
Lime Ridge Mall
Masonville Place
Oshawa Centre
Pen Centre
Pickering Town Centre
Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Square One
Stone Road Mall
Tecumseh Mall
Toronto Eaton Centre
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
Yorkdale Mall

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Today Partly cloudy -8° / -11°
Tuesday 90% 5-10cm of snow -2° / -5°
Wednesday 90% Rain 4° / -5°
WeatherEye... Free App Available on iPhone.

Take Five

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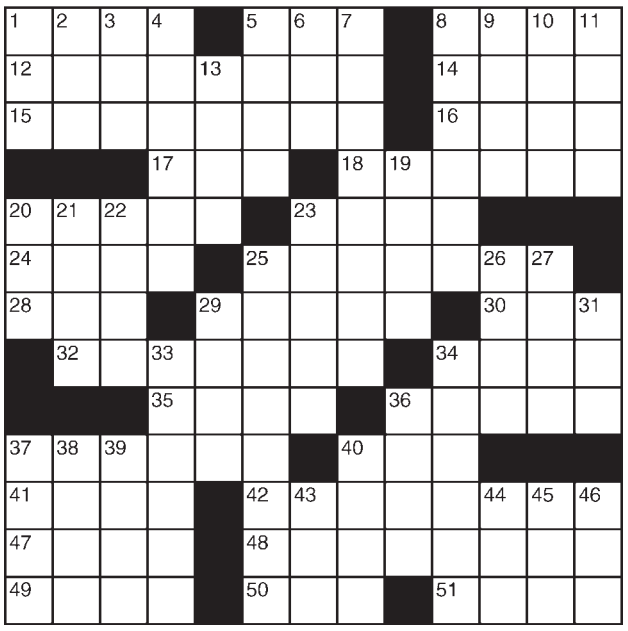

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3						1	
	7	8		5		6	2	
6			9		7			5
		2	1		4	9		
		9	5		8	4		
3			2		5			6
	1	4		6		7	5	
	8						9	

Crossword across

1 Castle protection
5 Help
8 Paper quantity
12 Acquire by ingenuity
14 Sicilian volcano
15 Passenger's confiner
16 Loony
17 That man's
18 Wind musician
20 Pains' mates
23 From the start
24 Duo
25 Compulsive cleaner
28 Bygone days, once
29 Our planet
30 Bill
32 Pasty
34 Sandwich shop
35 Architect Mies van der —
36 Ready for battle
37 Not destroyed
40 "CSI" evidence
41 Bedouin
42 Long high-temp stretch
47 Reiner or Lewis
48 Cuba, Jamaica, etc.
49 Advertise greatly
50 Red or Black
51 Collections

Crossword down

1 Wrong (Pref.)
2 Inseparable
3 Actress Gardner
4 Leash
5 Census statistics
6 Under the weather
7 Set off an explosion
8 Fame
9 Needle case
10 Picnic intruders
11 Sail support
13 Wading bird
19 "Little Women" woman
20 Gorilla
21 Tranquil
22 Stash
23 Eagle's nest
25 Petroleum-like liquids
26 Particular
27 Hardy cabbage
29 British prep school
31 Auction offer
33 Fit for use as farmland
34 Speaks slowly
36 Con
37 Apiece
38 Picture of health?
39 Rainout cover
40 Information
43 Away from WSW
44 Brewery product
45 Animal doc
46 Ar follower

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

D	A	S	H	■	E	T	A	L	■	E	T	A		
R	I	L	E	■	U	R	G	E	■	M	A	N		
I	D	O	L	■	R	A	R	E	■	I	L	K		
P	E	E	L	■	E	Y	E	■	I	T	C	H		
■	■	■	■	O	A	K	■	E	P	A	■	■	■	■
F	A	J	I	T	A	■	D	A	M	P	E	R		
A	G	A	T	E	■	■	■	P	A	I	N	T		
D	O	R	S	A	L	■	R	E	C	E	D	E		
■	■	■	■	M	M	E	■	E	R	A	■	■	■	■
J	O	V	E	■	S	O	T	■	M	O	M	S		
A	B	E	■	E	S	P	Y	■	E	D	I	T		
M	O	I	■	V	E	E	P	■	R	O	S	A		
B	E	N	■	A	N	N	E	■	A	R	T	Y		

3	7	4	2	1	9	8	6	5
5	1	8	6	7	4	3	2	9
2	6	9	8	5	3	7	4	1
7	4	5	9	6	8	1	3	2
1	8	2	4	3	7	9	5	6
6	9	3	5	2	1	4	7	8
9	3	6	7	8	5	2	1	4
4	5	1	3	9	2	6	8	7
8	2	7	1	4	6	5	9	3

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar
17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Flank Steak with Balsamic Sauce

INGREDIENTS:
1/3 cup (75 mL) orange juice
1/4 cup (50 mL) balsamic vinegar
1 tsp (5 mL) Worcestershire sauce
1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh thyme
2 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt, or to taste
Freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 1/2 pounds (700 g) flank steak, trimmed
2 tbsp (25 mL) finely chopped large shallot
1 tsp (5 mL) olive oil
2 tsp (10 mL) unsalted butter

METHOD:
1. In small bowl, whisk orange juice, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper. Place steak in a shallow glass dish, pour on orange juice mixture and turn to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours, turning several times.
2. Remove steak from marinade and pour marinade into small saucepan. Add shallot and set aside. Brush ridged grill pan or heavy skillet with oil and place over medium-high heat. Add steak to pan and, depending on thickness, cook for 6 to 7 minutes per side, or until it reaches the desired doneness. Transfer to cutting board and let stand for 5 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, bring marinade to a boil over medium-high heat and cook until reduced to 1/3 cup (75 mL), 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat, add butter and whisk until melted.
4. Slice steak thinly across grain. Add any accumulated juices on cutting board to sauce and serve with the steak. One serving is 3 oz (85 g) steak and 1 tbsp (15 mL) sauce.

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Learn to enjoy spending time alone. Smiling at your troubles will be endearing. Take the high road in questions of integrity.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A wimpy guy will slow down negotiations. Check the expiry date on fridge foods. A thoughtful person tells a little lie.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Peculiar ideas are viewed with alarm. A toy brings back some memories. A busybody will often be ignored.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Everything you do will be rewarding. A tall man has a weighty problem. A former associate must pay money back.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Turn the other cheek in a conflict. Someone's retreat shows profound hurt. Say goodbye to a foolish notion

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't let hurt feelings block a conversation. A relative's whining will grate on your nerves. Someone is caught up in a frenzy.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A younger person will jump at the chance to visit. A scrawny guy teaches a valuable lesson. An interesting remark will affect your future.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Someone is having sweet dreams of you. Someone else is stuck at home. Too much silence can get aggravating.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
An associate settles down after a snit. Give thanks where it's due. A do-gooder is preoccupied with giving good advice

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
News of a significant event gives good cheer. A victorious friend wants to celebrate. A family matter will be resolved fairly.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A sensitive male will refuse to bow down Listen carefully when a girl speaks. Get a grip on your self-control.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A computer glitch is baffling. Be quiet and purposeful when taking action. You'll find your way through a thicket of evasion.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Sway a vet to sleep in a cradle (1)
2. Cain's mom's fall color changers (1)
3. Add a hue to a broken-finger brace (1)
4. Butterfly cousin's fabrics (1)
5. One who lauds a surgical beam (2)
6. "Star Wars" knights' night flights (2)
7. Actress Debra's brandy cocktails (2)

ANSWERS
1. ROCK DOC 2. EVES LEAVES 3. TINT SPLINT 4. MOTHS CLOTHS
5. LASER PRAISER 6. JEDIS REDEYES 7. WINGERS STINGERS

12-22-08

This day in history

DEC. 22, 1849: The execution of Fyodor Dostoevsky is called off at the last second.
DEC. 22, 1864: Savannah, Georgia falls to General William Tecumseh Sherman, concluding his "March to the Sea."
DEC. 22, 1965: In the United Kingdom, a 70 mph speed limit is applied to all rural roads including motorways for the first time. Previously, there had been no speed limit.
DEC. 22, 1989: Berlin's Brandenburg Gate re-opens after nearly 30 years, effectively ending the division of East and West Germany.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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